BCCPAC Representation Report

10.9

December 2008

Submitted by: **Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, 2nd Vice President**
Name of Event: Roads to 2010
Date of Event: September 29th, 2008
Location of Event: Vancouver

The following is the written report of the roads to 2010 working group.

Roads to 2010 Working Group Meeting Notes
Monday, September 29, 2008
10:00 noon – 1:00 pm
BCELC Offices

In attendance: Don Black (VANOC), Christina Adams (VANOC), Bruce Deacon (COC), Audrey Hobbs-Johnson (Interactive Innovations, BCELC), Jane Gardiner (MOE), Kim Young (BCSSA), Chris Kennedy (West Vancouver), Bruce Beairsto (Richmond), Rob Goodall (BCSTA),

Welcome: Paul de la Riva (CSF), Talya Cohen (MoE), Kerri Gregory (2010 Legacies Now), Nick Poeschek (MoE), Laurey-Anne Roodenburg (BCCPAC),

Regrets: Sherri Mohoruk (MOE), Paige McFarlane (MOE), Rachel Holmes (MOE), Carla Qualtrough (CPC), Gayla Erickson (BCPPPA), Denise Leduc (CSF), Pierre Gilbert (MOE), Brenda LeClair (2010 Legacies Now),
Margaret Ross (BCASCD),

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

Don Black reported that the Ministry is in the late stages of completing a calendar that presents a countdown of events leading up to the Games. This is expected to be available in the very near future and will be posted to /edu. He also noted that on October 21-23 a workshop will be held with representatives from Ministries of Education across Canada to explain /edu and the strategy for engagement of students in other

provinces. In a recent announcement VANOC has indicated a willingness to work with groups of volunteers aged 15-19 so long as they are accompanied by a chaperone. It was presumed that this offer was targeted AT the Sea-to-Sky corridor, but there were questions about whether or not there were implications and opportunities for students in other districts.

With reference to the soon-to-be-released calendar, Don provided further details about the final year of the countdown. He commented on the Cultural Olympiad that begins in February, 2009, and that will have a digital component to make it widely accessible. He also commented on the Truce - global and personal - that is traditionally called for in October in connection with the Olympics. He noted that there will be a Torch relay with a Sustainability theme for both the Olympics and Paralympics (one day in November). All of these major programs will have components designed for school participation.

Chris Kennedy reported that the host-district committee of trustees and others was continuing to meet. Recently they heard about a $20 million fund established in Vancouver, $1 million of which is available for community projects up to $5000 each. Schools are eligible to apply for these grants in collaboration with other community groups. He also reported that a variety of field trips had been prepared for West Vancouver students (e.g., luge site) that include pre-visit activities and all the organizational details so that it would be easy for teachers to take students to visit Olympic sites and test events. Finally, Chris reported that he and Tim Braund (Richmond) had put together an inservice on October 24th for Lower Mainland districts and that there had been a very strong early response. This hands-on introduction to Olympic resources on the /edu site was seen to be a very promising idea. It was suggested that it might be repeated in other locations in the province if it is successful. Don Black indicated that he would follow up with Chris to examine the possibility of learning from or replicating this inservice opportunity as a "scaffold" that will enable teachers to take advantage of available resources.

(See:http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/english/literacy/concepts/3zpd.htm)

It was noted that in order for teachers to engage with the available resources – they have to know they exist – be assisted in getting to know them – and believe they are relevant. In this regard, the opportunity presented by the Olympics is to use its high interest to engage students, which promotes thought, which promotes learning, which results in achievement. Teachers are also more liable to be interested if they realize that available resources are not just about sport, but also culture and sustainability.

Bruce Beairsto reported that in Richmond the Oval opening is anticipated for early December. There will be a major two-week Winterfest celebration in the Oval in February and the world long track speed skating championships will be held at the Oval

in the Spring. There will be significant student involvement in all of these activities, including a 600 voice choir and 200 piece orchestra at Winterfest. A week-long cultural festival in the Oval is also being planned in association with Winterfest.

Recent media reports that the Vancouver School District is reconsidering the possible closure of schools during the Olympic Games led to a question about whether trustees in some districts may also be thinking about this decision and perhaps uncertain whether or not they should be closing schools**. It would be helpful to school districts if the potential for student engagement with the Olympic Games while still in school was better understood.** This could result from confirmation that live streamed video feeds would be available on the internet for schools so that students throughout BC could have a first-hand experience of the Games. Don noted that this was highly probable given the experience in Beijing, but that it needs to be confirmed. He noted that the Games Time program is the next priority for VANOC and that a draft of the games' time program is expected as soon as the end of October. This may very well include information about streaming video coverage that will be available to schools.

Bruce Deacon reported that the Canadian Olympic Committee's School Program provides a wide variety of resources for elementary and secondary students and is in the process of developing more. He noted in particular the Olympian stories for elementary students and the issue-based units for secondary. Bruce also reported that a series of stories about aboriginal Olympians had been produced and translated into five First Nations languages, with more translations anticipated. COC continues to produce new resources that will be available on their site and linked to /edu. He also noted that COC sponsors an "Adopt an Athlete" program in which schools form a relationship with an individual athlete for a period of one year. This program will expand to include 75 Olympians in the coming year. Finally, he noted that COC has in the past operated an Ambassador program and might consider this once again. It was noted that an Olympic Ambassador program should address not only the health/sport pillar, but also the culture and sustainability themes of the Olympic Games.

Don Black noted that the sustainability pillar in particular would soon be enhanced with the announcement of a VANOC strategy in this regard. The possibility of a connection between this strategy and the Green Games initiative at Science World was discussed.

Audrey Hobbs-Johnson reported that six student-led webcasts titled "Sharing the Dream" would be produced over the next 18 months. One student group from each of five geographical regions of the province would take responsibility for each webcast. These will be connected to all five pillars and will be available Canada wide. In addition, a partnership is being formed with the "Taking it Global" organization (http://www.takingitglobal.org/) which makes its resources available in 11 different languages. The first three webcasts will be on November 12, February 19, and May 14. Richmond students are producing the first webcast. The special guest speaker will be Carol Huynh (http://www.carolhuynh.com/results.asp).

Kim Young asked whether or not the November showcase should be repeated. It was suggested that an event be held but that it not be modeled on the previous showcase. However, with many educators coming together in Victoria, there is a unique opportunity to present an umbrella concept that will help them understand available Olympic resources and opportunities, as well as a strategy for scaffolding their engagement with these resources. A relatively brief late afternoon event that provides "Coles notes" on available resources in an easily accessible fashion was proposed. A keynote speaker is not required. The emphasis would be on access to useable information and an opportunity for participants to discuss and engage with the information.

Paul de la Riva reported that CSF will close five schools in the Lower Mainland during the Olympic Games in order to make those facilities available for Francophone athletes and media. The school district is also looking for ways to bring students from outlying areas to the Olympic venues.

Bruce Beairsto reported that the CBC is developing a junior reporter program that may have a productive connection with the Olympic reporter program through /edu. He will provide contact information for David Jang to Audrey and Don.

Rob Goodall noted that the BCSTA Aboriginal Education Committee may very well be interested in the new COC resources. He also reported that right after the election there would be a New Trustee Academy that might provide a good opportunity for introducing trustees to Olympic learning opportunities for students. BCSTA also conducts a tele-pd series for new trustees that might convey some of this information.

Laurey-Anne Roodenburg reported that the BCCPAC Spring Conference would be held in May and that the organization produces a "News Bites" letter every two or three weeks and that its Parent Leadership Program would have its first grads in November. All three of these may also provide opportunities for dissemination of information.

Talya Cohen reported that as the editor of Ed Info for the MOE she would be happy to receive information about district activities and stories of success related to the Olympic Games for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Kerri Gregory reported that Legacies Now has three programs of direct relevance: Action Schools, Sport Fit, and Heroes Live Here. She also reported that Legacies Now is working with BCPVPA and Student Voice on Olympic initiatives. Finally, the "Altitude Youth Groups" which have been organized through the Spirit Committees in communities around BC seem directly aligned with the intentions of "Sharing the Dream." Audrey and Kerri will explore the possibility of this connection.

SPECIFIC INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION

• Rural Conference - Kim and Jane to work with Pat Pearce and encourage explicit mention in the Minister's opening remarks.

• BCSSA Chapter Meetings - Kim to encourage Olympic Opportunities as a topic for Chapter Meetings, perhaps employing elements of the approach Chris has developed for the Oct 24 day and perhaps with the offer of someone who can attend to introduce the resources (e.g., Chris or Tim)

• BCSSA Fall Conference pre-event on Nov 26 - Kim to work with Don and others to prepare the "umbrella" and a plan for "scaffolding" that can be introduce in draft form and work shopped with participants to both inform them and benefit from their critical response.
• Share the Dream - Don, Audrey, Talya and Chris to discuss ways to leverage this project to promote Olympic Opportunities.

• BCASCD Repeat - Kim will investigate the possibility of an event for district teams similar to the BCASCD event last year, but focussed on hands-on work with resources such as at the Oct 24 pro-d day. Bruce will inquire as the possibility of holding such and event at the Oval.

FUTURE MEETINGS

• **November 26 in Victoria, perhaps from 1:00 to 3:00** prior to the Fall Conference pre-event. Kim to confirm, arrange and announce.

• **January 19 from 10:00 to 2:00 at Sea Island School in Richmond**. Bruce to book facility. Note that access is off Templeton, NOT through the sub division. Location is shown at the following URL:
http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&output=html&q=1891+WELLINGTON+CRESCENT+RICHMOND+BC&zoom=0&zp=OO

There are some opportunities for BCCPAC to help spread the word as noted …..spring conference, newsbytes, fall conference 2009. These ideas can be forwarded to the conference committee and newsbyte communication person for further consideration

Respectfully submitted,
Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, 2nd Vice President-BCCPAC