

WELCOMEHOME RELOCATIONS INC

VANCOUVER—2010 OLYMPICS

Well the 2010 Vancouver Olympics are almost here! Vancouver has been working hard to prepare for the onslaught of visitors to their City and, as you can imagine, during this time it will be very important for your Clients to be aware of some of the challenges this time will bring in trying to accommodate their relocating employees.

We felt that what a better way to give you the “inside scoop” but to get the feedback straight from some of our Consultants working in Vancouver, to give you a view of some of the expected challenges facing all of us during this time.

OLYMPIC- SIZE CHALLENGES

- Navigating the City
- Locating Reasonably Priced Accommodation



- February 12 - 28, 2010

PERSPECTIVE FROM THE GROUND

“Basically, we are being asked not to drive at all in downtown Vancouver from about Feb. 9th to March 2nd or so. The actual Olympic dates are Feb. 12 - 28, but there will be streets and bridges closed for things like the torch relay and the rehearsal for the Opening Ceremonies. On March 1-2, the airports will be jammed with people trying to go home. Also, no one will be allowed to drive to Whistler (unless they live there or along the route). All others must reserve places on special buses, and they can't do that unless they have either tickets for an event or a special permit proving they have a confirmed reservation at a hotel that has parking for their guests. Those people who have the special hotel parking permits will be allowed to drive to Whistler. But the road will be very busy and there may be delays”.

“Many areas of the city,

such as part of Coal Harbour, are within security boundaries, and it will be impossible to get in there unless you can prove that you are a resident. Many businesses are closing down for the whole February Olympics, and some places like downtown Community Centres may close for most of February and March. They expect that there will be hundreds of thousands of people in the streets of downtown every day. Something like English Bay on a fireworks night, non-stop for almost three weeks...”

“I would advise clients not to consider moving here permanently until April 1st, so that they will not have to try and cope with the crowds and traffic jams. If they want to do a rental search with a view to moving here March 1st, they had better come and do it during the first few days of February; otherwise it will be very difficult unless they are willing to do it via walking and public transit. If they don't already



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PERSPECTIVE FROM THE GROUND cont'd...

have their temporary accommodation booked, it will be difficult (and a lot more expensive) to find during the Olympics and Paralympics.”

“The traffic will hopefully not be quite so bad during the Paralympics (roughly March 10-20), but there will be a torch relay and street closures then, too. Many businesses will operate with skeleton staffs and encour-



age their employees to work from home at least some of the time. Not a good time to schedule any meetings.”

“Re: settling in, it will be hard for utility technicians to get around in the city to install TV hookups, etc. I heard on the radio today that Telus is planning on

having their technicians use handcarts (for their tools and supplies) and public transit!”

“Downtown hotels will be noisier than usual. Besides the all-night parties, all deliveries, garbage removal, and sewage pickup from all the extra porta-potties, etc., will have to take place between midnight and 6:00 A.M.”

“The short and sweet version is, during the Olympics is **not** a good time for their usual destination services...”

CHALLENGES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Moving Around the City

From the CBC: “The busiest area during the Games is anticipated to be downtown Vancouver, where Olympics operations are expected to reduce local road capacity by 50 per cent from the east and by 20 per cent overall.

Increased traffic into downtown Vancouver will force closures on some major roads.

Many roads in the downtown core will be converted into pedestrian corridors .

“Olympic lanes” will also be created for TransLink buses servicing high-traffic areas, such as Burrard Street between the Burrard Bridge and Cordova Street, Seymour Street between Granville Bridge and Cordova Street, and Cambie Street from Cambie Bridge to 59th Avenue.

The Olympic lanes will be reserved for buses and Olympic-accredited vehicles 24 hours a day, seven days a week..”

Accommodations – Expect accommodations to be difficult to find and extremely expensive during this timeframe.

We are seeing studio suites which normally lease for \$3,000 per month being increased to \$15,000+ per month .

Hotel rates during February, if you can find one, are running from \$600/



night to over \$1000/night.

We have also been faced with Landlords offering their existing long term tenants incentives to move out (example: a paid vacation during February) in order that they may hike up their rents and rent out the home at an enormous profit to benefit from the games.

In addition, everyone should be aware of scams!

Our insiders have advised us that some unscrupulous individuals are lifting private ads from the internet, creating their own websites, increasing the rental price and are fraudulently representing themselves as agents for the landlord without the landlords consent or knowledge. Renter Beware!

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

When it comes to Relocation files to Vancouver during this time period, we suggest that they are postponed until after the Olympics. A lot of time will be spent trying to navigate throughout the City. Properties will not be reflecting their “true” values. Hotels will be booked solid and noisy as celebrations will be taking place.

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USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://olympichostcity.vancouver.ca/>

<http://www.travelsmart2010.ca/index.php>

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/transportation/>

OLYMPIC PROJECTIONS

-Over half a million visitors are expected to land in Vancouver for the 2010 Olympic Games.

-Number of visitors expected during the Games is 17,000 per day in Whistler.

-NBC will pay \$820 million for the U.S. television rights for the 2010 Winter Games. The IOC told Bid cities to estimate 49 percent of all television contracts for the 2010 Olympics in their budgets, currently estimated at \$400 million US. This amount supersedes the \$348 million estimated in budgets prepared by Vancouver

2010 Bid Corporation.

-Number of rooms required for media and broadcasters in Vancouver and Whistler: 9,000.

-Number of countries expected to participate in 2010 Paralympic Games: 40; number of athletes: 700

-Number of passenger ferries that would transport people from Richmond and Canada Place to Squamish during the Olympics: 16. Number of buses operating daily between Vancouver and Whistler: 900.

-Amount spectators will pay for event tickets: \$19

to \$710; number of tickets available: 1.8 million.



2010 OLYMPIC MASCOTS