

WHISTLER, BC, Dec. 15 /CNW/ -

Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies (WSL2010), formerly the Whistler Legacies Society, introduced itself through the launch of www.whistler2010sportlegacies.com today. The website, providing information about the structure of the society and its goals, also unveils the logo and look of Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies that will be carried forward into the post-Games era. Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies is a not-for-profit society that will own and operate three 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games venues after the conclusion of the Games - Whistler Olympic Park, The Whistler Sliding Centre, and the Whistler Athlete's Centre.

"The organization's mission will be to operate its Olympic legacy venues to advance high performance sport development and recreational sport participation in a manner that ensures economic, environmental and social sustainability," said Paul Shore, Marketing and Business Development Manager for WSL2010. "Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies is well-positioned to ensure that the new Sea to Sky region venues of the 2010 Winter Games leave long lasting positive legacies for all the communities it serves, while becoming a world-renowned organization for sport leadership."

Whistler Olympic Park, the site of the cross-country, biathlon, ski jumping, and Nordic combined events for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, features 60 kilometres of cross-country ski trails, designed to be enjoyed by recreational skiers of all ability levels and by high-performance competitive athletes. "The Whistler Olympic Park is a world-class venue for hosting ski competitions for both able-bodied athletes and athletes with a disability, and is already receiving rave reviews from our Sea to Sky corridor and Vancouver clubs, and by our new Callaghan Valley Training Centre high performance athletes," said Georgia Manhard, Executive Director of Cross Country British Columbia. The park also features a Biathlon Range and Ski Jumps, and is well-suited to both competitive athletes in

training, and the general public for a variety of activities. "The park is an outdoor recreational gem that is being discovered by families of all ages - there is something for everybody to explore there," said Denise Imbeau of the Callaghan Winter Sports Club, which is working to build local participation in all of the Nordic sports, including biathlon, ski jumping, and Nordic combined. The public center point of the park is the stunning Day Lodge, which features seating for 200, food and beverage services, a ski rental shop, showers and lockers, and breathtaking mountain views.

The Whistler Sliding Centre, site of the bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton competitions for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, showcases a 1.4 kilometre track that has already been dubbed the fastest track in the world and is sure to excite every guest. The facility includes a Track Lodge that serves as a guest relations centre and two start houses, which in addition to hosting training and competing athletes, are designed to host public and corporate events. A public bobsled ride program will commence post-Games and is sure to be a highlight of a lifetime for visiting tourists and locals alike. Both Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton (BCS) and the Canadian Luge Association have initiated athlete development training for local youth on the track, and are enthusiastic about the long term potential for the track to compliment Calgary Olympic Park's track for National Team training.

The Whistler Athletes' Centre, part of the Whistler Athletes' Village, is located in Whistler's new Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood. The complex includes: a High Performance Centre featuring both a strength and conditioning gym and a gymnastics hall, and office space for the headquarters of Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies and partner groups such as the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program (WASP); an Athletes' Lodge featuring 100 rooms (200 beds) and restaurant space; and 20 Townhomes. The gymnastics hall will be the future home of the Whistler Gymnastics Club, fulfilling a long time need for permanent gymnastics space in the area. The centre will rent its lodge and townhome accommodations to athletes and teams who will train, compete, and

live in the Sea to Sky region after the Games, and can also offer accommodations to visiting educational and cultural groups. "All the buildings of the facility are accessible to people with a disability, which positions it well to become a world famous destination and centre for excellence for athletes striving to compete in the Paralympic Games and those looking to explore adaptive sports at a recreational level," said Chelsey Walker, Executive Director of the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program. "We are thrilled to be moving our offices to the Whistler Athletes' Centre after the Games and about working closely with Whistler 2010 Sports Legacies to expand sport development opportunities within the disabled community."

The WSL2010 web site showcases the new logo that will help ensure a long-lasting connection with the 2010 Games, while connecting and fostering involvement with both winter and summer sport. The WSL2010 "snowflake" captures the spirit of all three venues and the many winter sports that utilize them, and honours the organization's First Nations partners by taking its design inspiration from elements of local aboriginal art. It is also intended to evoke a sense of youthful exuberance and the joy that is derived from participation in sport.

WSL2010 will continue to develop, in cooperation with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), its post-Games business plan aimed at realizing its vision to create sustainable Olympic playgrounds that inspire sport excellence and drive community, economic and social benefits.

About Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies

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participation, in a manner that ensures economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Visit www.whistler2010sportlegacies.com for further details on the organization and its future facilities.

About VANOC

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010. Visit www.vancouver2010.com for further details on programs and schedules.

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