



## MEDIA RELEASE



### **CATCH THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT – AND FLAME – IN WELLAND**

**For Immediate Release – Friday, November 21, 2008**

**Welland** – Residents anxious to catch the Olympic Spirit will have the opportunity to see the Olympic Flame in person as it passes through Welland in late 2009 on its way towards the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, presented by Coca-Cola and RBC, will reach over 90 per cent of Canadians within a one-hour drive. The torch relay route is available at [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com) and information on how residents can apply to be torchbearers can be found at [icoke.ca](http://icoke.ca) and [rbc.com/carrythetorch](http://rbc.com/carrythetorch).

*"I encourage local residents, particularly our young people, to submit their name to become an official torchbearer when the Olympic Flame visits our City," stated Mayor Damian Goulbourne. "This is a once-in-lifetime opportunity that shouldn't be missed."*

**Coca-Cola** and **RBC**, the relay's presenting partners, have the exclusive rights for the public to enter the Olympic Torchbearer program and are looking for Canadian applicants who commit to live healthier or are inspired to create a stronger country by volunteering or making sustainable choices. There will be several opportunities to apply for torchbearer spots beginning on November 21, 2008.

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will begin its 106-day Canadian journey on October 30, 2009. The Flame's pan-Canadian journey will culminate on February 12, 2010 when it arrives in Vancouver for the Opening Ceremony before a global viewing audience of billions.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route will be the longest domestic Torch Relay in Olympic history, stretching over 45,000 kilometres throughout Canada. Upon its conclusion, the Olympic Flame will have been welcomed in over 1,000 communities and passed within a one-hour of more than 90 per cent of the entire Canadian population.

The Government of Canada is a proud supporter of the Olympic Torch Relay helping to bring the Olympic Flame to as many Canadians as possible.

#### **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 [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com) for further details on programs and schedules.*

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