



March 28, 2005  
For immediate release

### **Business forum first public event for Chilliwack's Spirit of BC committee**

The effect of the Olympic Games on surrounding communities and opportunities for Chilliwack area businesses will be front and centre on Friday, April 8, when Chilliwack's Spirit of BC committee hosts a special forum at Chilliwack City Hall.

"We invite local businesses to learn how they and the City of Chilliwack can take advantage of economic and business opportunities" says Spirit of BC committee co-chair Bill Davies. "With Vancouver, Whistler, British Columbia and Canada set to host the world in 2010 at the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, this is a perfect time to be learning and understanding how we can benefit from this once in a lifetime opportunity. And Chilliwack is well situated for such opportunities."

The speakers and topics include: Leland Gamette, Economic Development Officer for Provo, Utah, addressing "The Utah Experience – The effect of the Olympic Games on Surrounding Communities"; Ian Tait, Director, Community Legacy Initiatives, 2010 Legacies Now, on "Olympic business opportunities and marketing"; and Brian Krieger, General Manager, 2010 Olympic Commerce Centre, providing "The Olympic Commerce Centre and procurement process overview."

"It's quite exciting to be able to bring in someone from Utah, in a community that was near to the site of the 2002 Winter Games" notes Terry Bodman, the other co-chair of the local Spirit of BC committee. "In Leland Gamette, I think we will find a real valuable perspective for Chilliwack. And the representatives from the 2010 Commerce Centre and Legacies Now will get us right up to date on what businesses here can be doing to be ready for Olympic opportunities in the coming years – an integral part of the strategy our committee has been developing."

The Friday, April 8 forum is for businesses in the Chilliwack area. The schedule is:

7:30 a.m. – Registration and coffee

8:30 to 11 a.m. – Presentations

11 a.m. to Noon – Question and answer period

It takes place in City of Chilliwack Council Chambers. Seating is limited; and cost is \$20.10 in advance. For more information, businesses should contact Chantale at 604-793-2900.

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