

2010 Olympic Winter Games

Mr. Rodney: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow night the Olympic torch will be lit at the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver-Whistler Winter Games. International attention will be focused on our neighbours next door, but this is also a unique opportunity to show the rest of the planet that Alberta is a worldclass destination for tourism, business, culture, winter sports, and so much more.

Alberta enjoys a great history in this respect, and Albertans have every right to be proud of the legacy of the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games. Since 2004 our Alberta government has invested more than \$100 million to renew our Olympic heritage venues, and this has been invaluable in solidifying Alberta's position as Canada's national centre of winter sports excellence. This leadership role is irrefutable: more than half of the 2010 Canadian Olympic team were born in Alberta or live and train in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, our province will shine in other ways during the games. With the Alberta train, Alberta House, and Alberta Plaza we will share our story with the rest of the world. Alberta artists will offer medal-worthy performances in the Cultural Olympiad and in free nightly concerts at Alberta Plaza. In addition, an Alberta executive chef will showcase our food industry with gourmet cuisine from our own backyard.

Meanwhile, Albertans can be part of the Olympic experience in the comfort of their own homes from nightly live streaming videos of artists performing at the Plaza to the latest Twitter update about Albertans owning the podium. Our constituents can enjoy up-to-date news and results online at alberta.ca/vancouver2010. By the end of February the story of Alberta's athletes, artists, food, and opportunities will be well known.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the 2010 Olympic Winter Games is an invaluable venue for us to tell the rest of the country and the rest of the world about our amazing Alberta spirit and celebrate our successes together. Go, Canada, go, and go, Alberta, go.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.