

# 2010 POVERTY OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY



Today's events in \_\_\_\_\_ are part of the  
*2010 Poverty Olympics Torch Relay*,  
a province-wide journey running from January 17  
to February 7 highlighting the devastating reality  
of poverty and homelessness in our local  
communities and throughout BC

*please insert local information here...*

The Torch Relay arrives at the **2010 Poverty Olympics**  
in Vancouver on February 7, 1-3pm  
*Come and support the athletes – everyone welcome*

[www.povertyolympics.ca](http://www.povertyolympics.ca)

Over 4 million Canadians are  
locked in poverty



**END POVERTY: IT'S NOT A GAME**

# How Did This Happen?

Canadian and British Columbian government policies lock people in poverty:

- \$6 billion spent on Olympics while thousands are hungry and homeless
- Canada is the only G8 country without a National Housing Strategy
- welfare is denied to people in need
- welfare rates (\$610 per month) are too low to live on
- minimum wage (\$8/hour) is below the poverty line and is now the lowest in Canada

## Cost of Olympic-related services and facilities

Venues	\$600 million
Program Spending	\$125 million
Security	\$400 million - \$1 billion
2 Olympic Villages	\$1.261 billion
Sea to Sky Highway	\$775 million
Trade and Convention Centre	\$883 million
RAV line	\$2 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6.044 to \$6.644 billion</b>

## How \$6 billion could reduce poverty and homelessness

Raise welfare by 50% for 5 years	\$2.5B
End the barriers that keep people in need from getting welfare for 5 years	\$1B
<b>AND</b> build 12,720 new units of good social housing	\$2.5B
<b>PLUS</b> raise minimum wage (0 cost to taxpayers!)	

# What Can We Do?

Poverty and homelessness are not inevitable – in fact, the good news is we have the keys. Phone, write, or email your MP, MLA, and municipal representative (and copy to [rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca)) asking them to:

1. commit to a **poverty reduction plan, with targets and timelines**
2. build at least 2000 units of social housing per year (and support Bill C-304 for a national housing strategy)
3. remove the arbitrary barriers to getting on welfare that keep people in desperate situations
4. raise welfare rates to a level that provides an adequate living standard
5. raise the minimum wage to \$10/hour and end the \$6 training wage