



NEWS RELEASE

November 14, 2008

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Statutory Holiday in February would help alleviate VANOC concerns Mandatory Olympic vacations a terrible idea

Vancouver - The B.C. Federation of Labour is rejecting VANOC's suggestion that employers require their staff to take mandatory vacations during the 2010 Winter Olympics. Instead, the Federation is asking the provincial government to reconsider a Federation proposal for a statutory holiday in February.

"A new Statutory Holiday in February would bring us in line with other provinces, help address traffic congestion concerns during the Games and it would create a legacy beyond 2010," says Jim Sinclair, President of the B.C. Federation of Labour.

Employment Standards in BC only require two weeks annual leave and the Federation believes workers must be free to take this time off when it suits them, their families and children's school holidays.

"Forcing workers to take their vacations in the middle of the winter because its convenient for the Olympic organizers is a terrible idea," Sinclair added.

"We have hundreds of thousands of people earning less than \$10 an hour in this province. They simply cannot afford to lose two weeks pay because their employer decides to shut down their business during the Olympics," says Sinclair.

For more information: Evan Stewart, Director of Communications (604) 430-1421.

ES/sm
0500-08pr-holidays-VANOC

