



Spirit of BC

Victoria

## Excitement Builds for Livingcolours Olympic Celebration in Spirit Square

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Excitement is building around the world in anticipation of the 2010 Winter Games – and Victoria is no exception. Starting tomorrow evening, the community is invited to wear red and white and come together to celebrate their Olympic spirit at *Livingcolours 2010 Spirit Spectacular*, a three-day festival featuring exciting events, sport activities and live performances in Spirit Square.

What: Livingcolours 2010 Spirit Spectacular  
When: Friday, February 12, 2010, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Olympic Opening Celebration  
Saturday, February 13, 2010 from Noon to 4 p.m. – Fun and (2010 Winter) Games  
Sunday, February 14, 2010 from Noon to 4 p.m. – Year of the Tiger Fun  
Where: Spirit Square, next to Victoria City Hall

Events will occur rain or shine with many activities taking place under heated tents. Admission is free.

Event organizers are busy putting the finishing touches on costumes for roving performers and fantasy characters that will make the Square come alive in a brilliant burst of 'Cirque'-style activity and colour, while crews prepare to set up of a 9 x 12 foot screen and tents, and bring in snow for thrilling snowboarding demonstrations over the weekend.

### Friday, February 12 - Olympic Opening Celebration

The event will kick off Friday at 5:30 p.m. with a festive celebration including a welcome by Mayor Dean Fortin, and CTV's LIVE coverage of the Olympic Opening Ceremonies on a giant screen at 6 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Canadian Pavilion for free flags, face-painting, contests, activities and giveaways, or relax with friends and enjoy a beverage in the Spirit Lounge with a great view of the screen and stage.

Friday's performances will include *Bucan Bucan* (pronounced *booCHAN booCHAN*), a 13-piece 'gypsy' brass band with creative elements of dance, costume and audience interaction; dancers from Stages Dance company, *livingcolours* interactive performers, roving magic and the *Poi Pixies'* Fyre and Lyte who will provide a dramatic fire finale performance.

### **Saturday, February 13 – Fun and (2010 Winter) Games**

On Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., the focus will be on active fun, with the addition of many demonstrations and activities including the UVIC Ski and Snowboarding Club's *Rail Jam* snowboard demo, and salsa dancing by *Caliente Dance Co.* Families will have the opportunity to participate in *Wii* sport games, activities, crafts and giveaways at the interactive Kids Zone, complete with a *livingcolours* LEGO City.

Live music on stage will include the toe-tapping, bluegrass group *Rock Island Ramblers*, as well as the critically acclaimed contemporary folk group *Outlaw Social*. Roving performers, magicians, jugglers, stiltwalkers and giant puppets will add to Saturday's fun, with plenty to do and see in the Canadian Pavilion and other festival attractions.

Participants will also be able to celebrate with *Love, Poetry and Chocolate: Running on Love – Lyrics for the Human Race*, an afternoon of poetry and song with Poet Laureate Linda Rogers and special guests at City Hall, or bring a mat and take part in an outdoor yoga class on the lawn next to the Spirit Poles (weather permitting).

### **Sunday, February 14 - Year of the Tiger Fun**

On Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., the focus will turn to the start of Chinese New Year, with beautiful Chinese dance performances by the Ocean Rain Chinese Arts Academy, and an opportunity for people to make their own Chinese lantern and tiger mask. The community is invited to participate in a large Tiger lantern designed by artist Jennifer Witvliet, a community art project that will be presented to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. Treats, giveaways, tastings, and the Canadian Pavilion, Kids Zone, *livingcolours* LEGO City and other festival attractions will all be part of the Year of the Tiger Fun.

(Note: The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's annual traditional Chinese New Year Celebration and Lion Dance will take place on Sunday, February 21.)

*Livingcolours 2010 Spirit Spectacular* will be the place to be this weekend and is presented by the City of Victoria in cooperation with the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee.

### **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

To arrange interviews with performers, participants and artists, please contact Alice Bacon at 250.216.2704. Please find the Performance Schedule and Performer Biographies attached.

For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/livingcolours](http://www.victoria.ca/livingcolours)

### **For More Information:**

Alice Bacon  
Spirit Coordinator  
Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Society  
Cellular: 250.216.2704