

Whistler Olympic Park – Ski Jumping

The Blue-Stained Ponderosa Pine Podium City of Kamloops

The podiums of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
18 wood types. 23 podiums. Hundreds of stories.

The Ponderosa Pine podium will be used at the Whistler Olympic Park for ski jumping events. It is 478 centimetres long, 171 cm deep, 50 cm at its tallest point and assembled from 241 pieces.

Kamloops – Canada’s Tournament Capital

The Ponderosa Pine was harvested in the City of Kamloops, which began as a trading post in 1813. Today, Kamloops is a city of 82,000 and hosts more than 100 tournaments and 25,000 athletes and sports fans each year, all keen to enjoy the area’s natural beauty, recreation and arts scene. Wood manufacturers, including door, cabinet, and furniture makers, have been part of the local economy ever since Kamloops became a centre for paddlewheel steamer construction in 1865.

Forest Management in Kamloops

Home to British Columbia’s largest municipal park, the 800-hectare Kenna Cartwright Nature Park is more than twice the size of New York City’s Central Park. With the region’s hot, dry summers and plenty of sunshine, the park’s extensive forests are managed to reduce the risk of wildfires by thinning and removing hazard trees. Those trees are often milled to build recreation facilities such as picnic tables, viewing platforms, boardwalks and, most recently, an Olympic podium.

Blue-Stained Ponderosa Pine

Ponderosas grow in the southern Interior of British Columbia and are also known as yellow pine, due to the clear, even-grained wood that is found in very old, large trees. The bluish streaks are caused by mountain pine beetles as they feed on the trees. The light wood is used mainly for doors, windows, furniture, panelling and shelving. On hot summer days the bark emits a vanilla-like smell.



Peter Milobar, Mayor of Kamloops.

“We are proud to be the home of world class sport facilities and pride ourselves on providing a first-class sport experience for every participant, from the grass roots performer to international athletes going for gold, this is why we are known as Canada’s Tournament Capital.”



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Kelly Johnston, Community Wildfire Protection Coordinator, dedicated volunteer with Kamloops Search and Rescue and a volunteer ski patroller at Sun Peaks Resort.

"It gives me great pride to see Canadian Olympic athletes reach the goals that they have dedicated their lives to and worked so hard for."

"Healthy forests are essential to all British Columbians, they provide us with shelter, clean water, clean air, recreation and to many a way of life...we should all strive to look after our forests."

Podium Production

British Columbia's Ministry of Forests and Range sourced the wood and co-ordinated podium production. The rough lumber was converted to panels at Metro Vancouver's Bayview Millworks, a high-end wood product manufacturer and distributor, and cut into complex shapes using sophisticated computer controlled machinery at the University of British Columbia's state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Wood Processing. They were assembled at Canadian hardware retail leader RONA's Vancouver 2010 Fabrication Shop, a community-based training centre that teaches carpentry skills to new Canadians and at-risk youth.

British Columbia's Forest Sector

The wood podiums highlight the importance of forestry in British Columbia. The province is a global leader in sustainable forest management and the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber, paper and bio-energy products that help mitigate climate change and provide innovative solutions to green building and energy needs.

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All 23 podium profiles, high definition video, and more information about British Columbia's forest sector are available at www.gov.bc.ca/for and www.naturallywood.com

