

Whistler Olympic Park – Biathlon

The Grand Fir Podium The Kootenays *Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association*

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

The podium is used at Whistler Olympic Park for biathlon events. It is 478 centimetres long, 171 cm deep, 50 cm at its tallest point and assembled from 241 pieces.

The Kootenays

The Kootenays are a forested region along the U.S.-Eastern British Columbia border with communities born out of forestry and mining. Scenic valleys, rivers, lakes and hot springs offer year-round recreation and relaxation. Forestry is a key economic generator in communities like Castlegar, Fruitvale, Grand Forks, and Creston.

Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association

The Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association donated the Grand Fir that was harvested and milled near the community of Castlegar. The association represents 14 forest companies with 2,000 employees and production plants in 12 communities in the province's Southern Interior. Many member companies are independent entrepreneurs and include family-owned businesses that have been vital to the growth of the region for more than 100 years. Members produce flooring, paneling, veneer, dimension lumber, poles and pulp from a range of species, and operate with a long-term vision of sustainable forests and communities.

Jim Hackett, president, Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association.

"The podiums are a link between sustainable forestry operations in communities throughout British Columbia and the enduring worldwide tradition of the Olympics."

Grand Fir

Grand Fir's Latin name *Abies grandis* reflects the tree's great heights. They can reach 70 metres in the South Coast and Interior regions of British Columbia. Traditionally Grand Fir was used by First Nations to build canoes. Today it is used to manufacture lumber, pulp and plywood. Grand Fir often grow in mixed forests.



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Motto of Kalesnikoff Lumber Company, member,
Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association.

"Take care of the land, and the land will take care of you."

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

