

# Pacific Coliseum – Figure Skating, Short Track Speed Skating

## The Western Larch Podium Ktunaxa Nation *Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest*

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

The Western Larch podium is at the Pacific Coliseum for pair figure skating and team short track speed skating. It is 619 centimetres long, 185 cm deep, 60 cm at its tallest point and assembled from 227 pieces.

### **Ktunaxa Nation — Our people care for the land.**

#### **The land cares for our people. Hu yaqanik'natimaᑎnaᑦa' ki ʔamak.**

The Ktunaxa Nation's traditional territory covers 70,000 square kilometres in southeast British Columbia and extends into Alberta, Montana and Idaho. For thousands of years, the Ktunaxa migrated to follow vegetation and hunting cycles on both sides of the Rockies and through the Great Plains. Today, the Ktunaxa continue to focus on stewardship and community well-being through natural resource enterprises.

### **Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest**

The Western Larch was donated by the Ktunaxa Nation Community Forest. The 20,000-hectare forest is managed by Nupqu (Black Bear) Development Corporation, a natural resource management business owned by the communities of the Ktunaxa Nation. Nupqu also provides ecosystem restoration, water-quality monitoring, wildfire crews and mitigation, and other natural resource management services.

### **Western Larch / K'ustit'**

Traditional Ktunaxa Story: When the Creator was first making trees, K'ustit' was not satisfied with its qualities and complained to the Spirit, wanting to be different. So the Spirit started naming options – trees that bear fruit, flowers or different leaves, but K'ustit' insisted on being unique. Eventually, after listening to ongoing complaints, the Spirit agreed K'ustit' would be different than any other tree. To this day you pick out K'ustit' in the fall when, as the temperature drops, its needles turn a brilliant golden colour before falling off – the only conifer in Western Canada that sheds its needles each year.

Western Larch can reach 50 metres in height and 850 years in age. The wood is among the strongest in Canada and used in heavy construction, railway ties, flooring, and doors.



*"It is with great pride that Nupqu donated larch for an Olympic podium. It is an incredible opportunity to share our wealth of natural resources with the rest of the world."*

Bob Luke, Nupqu Development Corporation Director and Tobacco Plains Band Council Member.



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# The Western Larch Podium

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Kathryn Teneese, Chair of the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Chief Treaty Negotiator for the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council.

*"The Ktunaxa are very proud to be a part of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, and hope to see many Canadians atop the podium made from our donation of Western Larch."*

*"How larch, or k'ustit' in our language, adapts to seasonal change is symbolic of the Ktunaxa People's ability to endure and succeed through adversity."*



Norm Fraser, Nupqu Development Corporation, Business Manager, proud father and avid alpine skier.

*"I have vivid memories of attending the 1988 winter games in Calgary with my classmates from the Enoch First Nation in Edmonton. I hope young people in B.C. are inspired by our athletes to pursue a healthy active lifestyle, as I was."*

## 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](http://www.gov.bc.ca/for) and [www.naturallywood.com](http://www.naturallywood.com)

