

# Cypress Mountain – Skiing and Snowboard

## The Lodgepole Pine Podium Westbank First Nation *Westbank First Nation Community Forest*

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

The Lodgepole Pine podium is used at Cypress Mountain for freestyle skiing and snowboard events. It is 478 centimetres long, 171 cm deep, 50 cm at its tallest point and assembled from 241 pieces.

### Westbank First Nation – “Community, Leadership, Pride”

The Westbank First Nation has inhabited the Okanagan Valley for thousands of years. Their rich history as a hunting, fishing and trading community continues today, with successful natural resource, recreation, and land leasing operations. Their 700 members form the core of a vibrant community that is also home to 9,000 non-members and 200 businesses. The community neighbours the City of Kelowna and the region is adored by ski, sun, wine and golf lovers.

### Westbank First Nation Community Forest

With medicinal and ceremonial plant inventories underway, the management of the 46,000-hectare Westbank First Nation Community Forest reflects traditional stewardship values. The wood for the podium was felled, processed, trucked and milled by members of the Westbank First Nation. Prior to making the journey to Vancouver, the lumber was blessed

by a community Elder and signed, with best wishes to the athletes, by the students at Sensisysten House of Learning, the local elementary school.

### Lodgepole Pine

Culturally modified Lodgepole Pine trees are not uncommon in the Westbank First Nation Community Forest. The healthy and mature trees show areas where sections of bark were carefully removed generations ago to harvest the edible layer underneath. Today, Lodgepole Pine is used for lumber, plywood and panelling and as well as doors, windows, furniture, railway ties and fence posts.



Grant Thompson, Westbank First Nation forestry manager, recreational cross-country skier, cyclist and kayaker.

*“The community forest provides our membership with meaningful employment, decision-making on resources, and reinforces our connection to the land. The podium project extends that connection to the Olympics and the world.”*



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Bob Swite, Westbank First Nation forestry trainee, university student, fastball coach and player who has participated in the Native Canadian Fastball Championships each of the past 15 years.

*"It's a great honour for the Westbank First Nation to manage a community forest. We've been able to build capacity in forest management and education, which creates employment for Westbank First Nation members. For me, it's meant hands-on experience and the opportunity to complete my degree and apply it to become a registered professional forester."*

Barb Coble, Westbank First Nation senior intergovernmental affairs researcher, and torchbearer for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

*"I am so honoured and humbled by the opportunity to carry the Olympic torch into the Westbank First Nation community. Health and fitness is a lifestyle for me and much of my motivation to stay fit comes from seeing what athletes are capable of accomplishing – both mentally and physically. I hope that in some small way, I can inspire others to walk, or run, the path of good health, well-being, and fitness."*

## 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.

## Contacts

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Video of children signing the podium wood, Elder blessing the wood, the community forest, operations and short quotes are available for rebroadcast at [www.gov.bc.ca/for](http://www.gov.bc.ca/for)

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)

