

## Torch Relay and Olympics Outreach Overview

The world is coming to Canada in 2010 to participate in and witness the Olympics being hosted by Vancouver and Whistler, BC. This creates an unprecedented opportunity for the church to serve and share with our neighbours and with visitors from around the globe. How will your church be involved? Whether you live in St. John's, Newfoundland or Port Alberni, BC these Games are yours. The Olympic Torch will be visiting 200 communities across Canada. The Olympic and Paralympic Games will run at venues from Whistler, to North Vancouver, to Vancouver, to Richmond.

The Salvation Army is part of a broad network of Christian denominations and parachurch agencies, called More Than Gold, which is planning for outreach and service before, during and after the Games. Take up the torch and get involved. Your church doesn't have to be in BC to benefit from this incredible opportunity. Canada will be celebrating. The church needs to celebrate with her!

The scope of your Torch Relay and Olympics Outreach can be as big as your congregation's or staff's collective imaginations: sports camps and clinics, creative and performing arts concerts, family-friendly community festivals, warming and refreshment stations featuring The Salvation Army's mobile canteens, big screen viewings of major Games events, prayer gatherings, community clean-ups, expanded service to the homeless, a strengthened fight against human sex trafficking. If you have knitters, they can contribute hand-knit scarves which will be distributed to homeless people in Vancouver during the Games. Youth and Adults can be part of Mission Teams moving across Canada starting October 2009 to support Corps/Centers doing Torch Relay Outreach, or they can join Teams coming from across Canada to serve on-the-ground in Vancouver during the 2010 Games. Games-time Teams will have the opportunity to work alongside national and international teams from many denominations. The opportunities are endless!

God has given us a unique opportunity to engage our culture. Olympic Outreach 2010 – are you game? I hope so!

Grace and Peace,

Sharon Tidd  
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The Salvation Army British Columbia Division