



Media Release

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BC SET TO LEAD CANADA ON SUSTAINABILITY

British Columbia will lead Canada into a more sustainable future, according to Canadian writer/philosopher John Ralston Saul.

Speaking at the Recycling Council of B.C.'s (RCBC) 30th Annual Waste Reduction Conference in Whistler last week, Mr. Saul said, "One of the strengths of Canada is that leadership has shifted around the country at different times on different subjects. For example, democracy and public education out of Nova Scotia and universal health care out of Saskatchewan.

"British Columbia can lead the way towards establishing environmental stewardship as a mainstream component of Canadian life."

Mr. Saul went on to suggest that B.C., with its strong environmental ethos and the 2010 Olympics as a catalyst, is positioned to lead Canada into a sustainable future. He also observed that the global environmental movement owes tremendous gratitude to B.C., noting that many notions of environmental responsibility adopted worldwide can be traced to "a bunch of annoying people in British Columbia that asked tough questions about where we were heading, environmentally speaking."

More than 30 speakers were featured during RCBC's three-day conference covering issues such as creating a sustainable Olympic Games, the relationship between waste and global warming, electronics waste, composting vs. landfilling and educating the public on the importance of waste reduction as part of a sustainable economy.

Ken Baker, Assistant Deputy Minister with the B.C. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, who was assigned temporarily to the Vancouver bid team in 2001, explained how environmental stewardship is one of the three pillars and a key component to the 2010 Games. He told the crowd of more than 200 delegates that the Vancouver Games would implement an action plan for sustainable development. The plan covers green buildings based on LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system, clean transportation, using hydrogen fuel-cell technology, sustainable energy, waste management and air quality.

Mr. Baker said part of the vision of 2010 was to create sustainable legacies for athletes and host communities. He pointed out that all venues will be less than 30 minutes from athlete villages and that existing facilities selected for use during the games, and the sites to be developed, are on existing or planned public transportation routes. To minimize the

impact on air quality during the games, there will be no public parking at venues, requiring spectators to use public transit to gain access to events.

Among the organizations that participated in this year's conference were Alcan, Brewers of Canada, B.C. Used Oil Management Association, Encorp Pacific Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection, Tetra Pak, Wastech, as well as the Nanaimo, Squamish Lillooet and Capital Regional Districts. Information about RCBC and a program of events held at the conference can be accessed at www.rcbc.bc.ca

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