



## News Release

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For immediate release

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### **BC Games Torch to be Retired**

After 26 years of service, the BC Games Torch will be officially retired following the Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games.

The Torch has long been a symbol inviting community, participants, and volunteers to join the celebration of the BC Games. It has traditionally been lit 100 days prior to the start of the Games and then extinguished following the Closing Ceremony. For over 300,000 participants the burning of the torch has been a symbol marking an experience of a lifetime.

To keep the torch burning, over 600,000 BTU's of natural gas was consumed in each BC Games host community.

"We are most grateful to have had such a symbolic and traditional feature of the Games for so many years. We believe strongly in leadership and stewardship for the environment and retiring the torch is one step towards making sustainable choices for the BC Games and our Host Communities," said BC Games Society President and CEO, Kelly Mann."

It is a homecoming of sorts for the torch to be retired in Kelowna. It was originally commissioned for the BC Summer and BC Winter Games by Inland Natural Gas. Okanagan College students designed and built the torch in 1981. Since that time, the torch has travelled to over 30 communities in BC.

A smaller, shorter burning torch will continue to highlight the Opening and Closing ceremonies of BC Summer and BC Winter Games. The BC Games Society is currently researching an alternate, eco-friendly torch to be built in time for the Terrace 2010 BC Winter Games.

The Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games will take place July 24 to 27 with close to 3000 athletes, coaches, and officials taking part in the four-day event.

- 30 -

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