

# All-Out ASSAULT on Political Freedoms

## *Olympic Interests Take Over The City of Vancouver*

With little notice or public consultation, Vancouver City Council on July 23, 2009 passed a massive 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games By-Law package that imposes changes on eleven existing bylaws in order to further restrict public activities.

The purpose of these changes is to sweep aside everything – signs, noise, disturbance, nuisances – that might interfere with “the success of the Games” or “the enjoyment of entertainment on city land.” Each offense against a By-Law can be punished by a fine of at least \$2,000.

In order to protect the advertising interests of Olympic sponsors and eliminate visible protest during the Olympics, the City uses the Olympic host city contract to justify extreme control over Vancouver’s public spaces. The Torch Relay across Canada also calls for similar restrictions in the many communities the Olympic torch will visit.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association says: “The by-laws carve out extensive public zones in which the City can dictate massive security screenings and draconian curtailment of free expression.” Even more disturbing, many of these changes will become permanent if the City decides the additional powers should apply to future events.



**Get Informed!  
Get Active Now!**

**Email:**  
[olympicresistance@riseup.net](mailto:olympicresistance@riseup.net)

**Web site:**  
[olympicresistance.net](http://olympicresistance.net)

**No Olympics on Stolen Native Land!**

Check out [www.no2010.com](http://www.no2010.com) for extensive information  
(Indigenous anti-Olympics site in the Olympic Resistance Network)

Interested in receiving announcements related to the Olympics?  
Please email us to be added to the ORN-announce list, a low-traffic  
(2-3 emails a month) moderated list for events, meetings, and updates.

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## **Your Rights and Freedoms ...** ***Trampled by New Bylaw Provisions !***

AT ANY NUMBER of Olympic venues and unspecified other locations, you can be subjected to security searches of your person and property, video camera surveillance, and exclusion or prosecution for being a "nuisance" or causing a "disturbance."

AT "CITY SITES" (public property, such as David Lam Park) it is forbidden to bring "anything that makes noise," or "to carry any sign unless licensed to do so by the city." Only signs considered "celebratory" regarding the Olympics will be permitted – a content-based restriction on free expression that violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

THE OCCUPIER (not just the owner) of a building now can be held liable for the removal of graffiti or "unauthorized" signs. Despite a Supreme Court of Canada decision upholding a free speech right to poster, posters on construction hoardings are considered "a nuisance and an eyesore."

SWEEPING POWERS to decree additional unspecified rules as "necessary to enhance" the Games are given to the Mayor (regarding noise), the City Manager (city sites), and the City Engineer (streets and traffic). When questioned about such discretionary powers, Council told the public that we should just "trust" the Mayor and City staff to do the "right thing."

ALLOWING OLYMPIC ORGANIZERS use of Vancouver street space around venues aims to create an atmosphere free of visible poverty and dissent for tourists and the international media. These enhanced powers, street closures, video monitoring, and increased security will restrict not just protesters, but everyone in Vancouver.

SINCE EVERY INCH of legal outdoor advertising space has already been commandeered by the Olympics and their sponsors, there is no lawful way for the community to speak out without access to posters, signs, and traditional protest methods like marches (illegal on Olympic corridors) and noise-makers (illegal on many public sites). With these new powers and rules, and at least 16,500 police to enforce them, what rights and freedoms will remain for those who oppose the Olympics?



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