



News Release

For Release: January 5, 2009

THE OLYMPIC TORCH COMES TO SASKATOON ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11 - ITS ROUTE IS NOW REVEALED

In less than a week, the Olympic Torch will arrive in Saskatoon! It reaches the outskirts of the city at approximately 12:00 noon on Monday, January 11, 2010. It will be carried through the city by 40 torchbearers. All residents are encouraged to come cheer the Torch along the route, or come down to the community celebration site at Kiwanis Memorial Park.

“We are delighted to host the Olympic Torch as it passes through Saskatoon,” said Mayor Donald Atchison. “The Torch unites us as a community and as a nation. I invite everyone to come welcome the Torch along the route or take part in the excitement at Kiwanis Park for this once-in-a-lifetime moment!”

Torch Route:

The Torch will start its Saskatoon journey at noon at the intersection of Witney Avenue and 22nd Street. It will travel east on 22nd Street and turn south onto 3rd Avenue, where it will continue to Spadina Crescent. It will be carried along Spadina Crescent, under the Broadway Bridge, where it will join the community celebration at Kiwanis Memorial Park at approximately 12:30 p.m.

The Torch then leaves the Park at approximately 1:30 p.m. north along Spadina Crescent to 22nd Street, then west to 4th Avenue, north to 24th Street, west to Idylwyld Drive, then north to 36th Street. The Torch will be given a roaring welcome from the staff and students outside at SIAST Kelsey Campus on Idylwyld and 33rd Street.

Note: Roads will be temporarily closed along the Torch route and re-opened once the Torch has passed. The roads around Kiwanis Memorial Park will be closed from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for event set up and tear down.

Community Celebration:

At Kiwanis Memorial Park, there will be an enormous free community celebration for two hours and everyone is invited to attend (the celebration starts before the Torch arrives, and runs 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.). There will be 50 minutes of Saskatoon’s top entertainment on the huge

Olympic stage featuring dancers, singers, and performers representing the diversity of Saskatoon's cultural community (see attached list for more details). The entertainment is a one-of-a-kind, specifically commissioned fusion of culture to delight all ages. Mixed with the local talent on stage will be amazing entertainment from the Torch Relay's two national sponsors, RBC and Coca-Cola. Also in the Park will be snow sculptures led by renowned snow sculptor Patricia Leguen and created by students from Centennial High School.

In addition, there will be chili and a bun (\$3) and hot and cold drinks (\$2) for sale, interactive sponsor displays, and a banner to sign wishing good luck to our Saskatchewan athletes at the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Part of the pre-torch excitement activities involved four Olympians visiting over 60 schools in Saskatoon delivering messages of setting goals, being one's best, and teamwork. In addition, some Saskatoon torchbearers will be doing the puck-drop at the Blades game on Saturday, January 9.

For more information, visit www.saskatoon.ca and click on "O" for Olympic, or www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay, or check out the Olympic Torch Relay fan page on Facebook.

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Media, for more information:

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OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY BACKGROUNDER

Saskatoon Community Entertainment:

The expressed theme of this 50-minute cultural performance is to create a story narrative of community diversity and engagement, demonstrating cultural and historical links among the peoples of Saskatoon. This showcase will demonstrate the vigor of our community's arts and cultural scene in a diverse and exciting globally-connected city. A broad collection of local, national, and internationally recognized groups will be performing a variety of locally produced works.

The Procession

Heritage Chinese Language School Lion Dance Troupe

Cross-Cultural Beginnings

Dance Saskatchewan Inc. (choreographer) – Saskatchewan athletes, Olympians and Paralympians and performers

Cultural Shaping

Dance Saskatchewan Inc. (choreographer) – dance performers

Community Beginnings

Saskatoon Children's Choir

First Nations Celebration

Buffalo Boy Productions

Bilingual National Anthem

University of Saskatchewan Greystone Singers

Community Entertainment

Dance Saskatchewan Inc.

Andrea Menard – singer

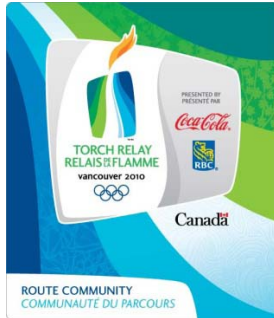
Christal Pederson – singer / **Christal** and **Scott Duffy** jiggling

Jeff Soucy & Son (dance ensemble)

Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble

General Information:

- The 106-day Olympic Torch Relay, presented by Coca-Cola and RBC, will visit more than 1,030 communities and places of interest in every province and territory. It will travel over 45,000 kilometres across Canada.
- There are 12,000 torchbearers involved with the Torch Relay.
- Saskatoon's Community Torchbearer is local teacher, athlete, coach, and role model Jacqueline Lavallee. She will have the honour of lighting the cauldron on stage in Saskatoon during the two-hour community celebration at Kiwanis Memorial Park.
- The 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games will be held in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. The Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010.
- For more information on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, visit www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay.



Saskatoon Olympic Torch Relay Route

Monday, January 11, 2010

Approximate Torch Relay Start: 12:00 noon

Celebration Site: Kiwanis Memorial Park, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

