

# The Epoch Times

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SANDRA SHIELDS/THE EPOCH TIMES

## 'What Canadians really want is gold'

Canada enters Olympics with its best team ever, say hosts

By **MATTHEW LITTLE**  
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—It began with a video montage of athletes training for the Games: skeleton racers sitting in a wind tunnels as a jet of air marks their friction point, free-style ski jumpers flipping into pools of water, a computer

program analyzing the mechanics of a hockey player's slapshot.

This is what "Own the Podium" has been working on, the head brass shared at a press conference Tuesday—a program for high-performance athletes on par with what the other Winter Olympic superpowers (the ones that take the gold while Canadians settle for personal

bests) provide for their athletes.

Much has been made of Canada's new go-for-the-gold attitude and the CA\$117 million (\$110 million) that backs it up. Own the Podium is a joint effort between the Canadian government and the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) with corporate partners kicking in as well.

This is not the Olympic team Canadians are used to, where athletes struggle through the year, choosing between training time and an extra shift at work to make ends meet. These athletes have personal trainers, sports psychologists, nutritionists, and physio. They can train all year and don't have to flip burgers at resort restaurants to buy

their time on the hill.

Roger Jackson, who heads up Own the Podium, said Canada having the Olympics was a rare opportunity to do something special. The attention directed at the Vancouver Olympics is what finally prompted Canada to create a high-performance program, he said.

PLEASE SEE GOLD ON P4

## Vancouver buzzes with Games fever

By **MATTHEW LITTLE**  
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—Filled with expectation in the run-up to the Games, Vancouver is awash in colour and peopled by an army of 25,000 blue-clad volunteers. Many of the 11,000 journalists and their helpers expected to descend on city have already arrived and begun amassing at the main media centre at Vancouver's iconic Canada Place, now outfitted with row upon row of tables where laptops sit, ready for work.

Olympic sponsors have swallowed up available ad space so completely that finding a billboard or transit ad that doesn't feature a skier flying through the air or a speed skater blurring down the track could become a sport in itself. Some people say there are so many ads here that it is impossible to remember who is the official mattress supplier and who provides the Olympics insurance. But if there is one thing the people of Vancouver know, it is that the Olympics has sponsors and they like to advertise.

PLEASE SEE GAMES ON P4



LET THE GAMES BEGIN: Five-month-old Rylenn Gonzalez and his mother, Richelle, get ready to cheer on Team Canada in downtown Vancouver on Wednesday. The Winter Olympics begin Friday, and Canada is fielding what organizers say is its strongest team ever. Read more of our special coverage from Vancouver 2010 in our special section inside, on Sports, and online at [www.TheEpochTimes.com](http://www.TheEpochTimes.com). ROBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Thousands of secret documents core of U.K. Iraq inquiry

By **SIMON VEAZEY**  
Epoch Times Staff

LONDON—Tens of thousands of secret documents form the core of the ongoing British inquiry into the Iraq war, its chairman revealed on Monday—far more than previously thought.

The inquiry also hinted that such documents showed British officials knew former U.S. President George W. Bush intended to invade Iraq even if Iraq complied with U.N. weapons inspections.

In a statement marking the end of a month of public testimonies by senior decision-makers broadcast live on the Web, inquiry chairman Sir John Chilcott said that secret documents allowed the panel to see what really went on.

"They allow us to shine a bright light into seldom-seen corners of the government machine, revealing what really went on behind the scenes, before, during, and after the Iraq conflict," he said.

The inquiry team will examine the documents over the next few months said Chilcott, allowing the panel "to see where the evidence joins together and where there are gaps."

After the examination of the documents, more of which he said were still being received every week, the inquiry team would be in a position to decide who else to interview.

"We have no reason to believe that any material is being deliberately withheld," Chilcott said, emphasizing that access to documents is unrestricted.

The chairman's statement followed the second quizzing of the U.K.'s Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, at the time of the Iraq invasion.

One exchange hinted that the panel had access to secret documents revealing that former U.S. President George Bush planned to attack Iraq even if Iraq complied with inspectors and was in compliance with crucial U.N. resolution 1441.

Sir Lawrence Freedman asked Straw, "Was there any point where [Colin] Powell said to you that, even if Iraq complied, President Bush had already made a decision that he intended to go to war?"

PLEASE SEE INQUIRY ON P5

## Earthquake trauma: Canadian brings 'calm amidst chaos' in Haiti

By **CINDY CHAN**  
Epoch Times Staff

Mental health experts believe Haiti is facing a long-term challenge after the earthquake, and special efforts are needed to help survivors cope with the psychological toll of the disaster.

Vancouver psychologist Dr.

Jeanne LeBlanc went to Port-au-Prince the week after the Jan. 12 earthquake that killed over 200,000 people. Her mission was to provide post-disaster help to Haitians and aid workers in the ravaged capital.

"It's overwhelming, the amount of despair and difficulty," she said.

"At the time of disaster, you are

not there to do psychotherapy. You are concerned about providing a sense of calmness in the midst of chaos. Your job is just to help people calm down, or in Haiti, suicide intervention, because they have lost so many family members and they want to kill themselves."

"The people crying out in pain

because they're awaiting a procedure, I would hold their hand, soothe them, speak in a calming voice. Even if I am not able to speak Creole, people can tell when you're trying to help," she said.

She also supported the doctors and nurses who were doing near round-the-clock

surgeries—mostly amputations.

"The physicians were doing so many amputations, from 6 a.m. to 4 a.m., so I was spending a lot of time with people post-amputation, and letting them tell me their story, helping them find something to give them some hope for the next day."

PLEASE SEE QUAKE ON P2

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### NE U.S. paralyzed with record snowfall

With another blizzard Wednesday afternoon, many northeastern U.S. cities shattered snowfall records. With over three feet of snow already on the ground from last weekend, cities including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Baltimore got dumped on again, causing several major airports to shut down. It is being described as the biggest disruption to air travel since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. What's worse, more snow could be on the way by Monday. REUTERS/LARRY



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