



BALACLAVA!

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Defence Industry has its Sights on the Olympics

A look at some of the companies cashing in on 2010 security spending

by Dawn Paley

The security budget for the 2010 Olympics is upwards of \$900 million, an amount that has generated criticism and backlash from Games opponents and cash-strapped Canadians alike. But while activists lament what could have been done with such a massive sum, local and international security and defense companies aren't complaining: they've hit paydirt.

So which companies are cashing in on the security bonanza during the 2010 Olympics? There's no master list, and many contracts have been granted with little fanfare, but the details of some of the recipients of Olympic security spoils are known.

Part of the security services will be donated by Olympic sponsors and suppliers, like Panasonic, responsible for providing cameras for video surveillance of Olympic venues, and Garrett, which will provide 1650 metal detectors for the games.

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Activist ticketed for postering in the DTES

Anti-Olympics poster merits a \$100 fine as free speech clampdown continues

By his own count, Ivan Drury has plastered up more than 50,000 posters in Vancouver over the last 15 years.

At one point, he wanted to launch a constitutional challenge against the City of Vancouver's anti-postering by-laws, but his efforts to get charged back then failed. He had his wheatpaste confiscated, or the posters taken away, but even when he plastered up a poster in front of a watching cop, there was no ticket.

That changed last Thursday, when Drury was postering for the Poverty Olympics at the corner of Hastings and Carrall Streets in Vancouver's Downtown East Side.

The police who handed Drury the ticket told him the Vancouver Police Department "does not want the public to perceive they are acting in a discriminatory way toward the Downtown Eastside or toward activists."

But Drury feels his poster, which por-
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PHOTO: CHRIS BEVACQUA

Inside the Poverty Olympics

by Esther Hsieh

The third annual poverty Olympics showed the world the power of community in Vancouver's downtown east side. The event was co-hosted by Chewy the Rat, Itchy the Bedbug and Creepy the Cockroach, critters with which many DTES residents have an intimate relationship with and daily interaction.

There were four events: The Housing Hurdles, the Miracle on Ice, The Broken Promise Slalom and Wrestling for The Community.

The first event consisted of four hurdles (condo development, policing, access to welfare and discriminating landlords) that each athlete had to overcome in order to reach safe and affordable housing. Despite earnest effort by all competitors and cheers of support from a full-house, all participants failed to complete the course because the hurdles were impassable.

The Miracle on Ice was the gold medal hockey game between the VANOC Predators and the Pigeon Park Eagles. Despite having to play short of their

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Indymedia Reporter Detained in "No Mans Land"

VMC: Another independent journalist was turned away at the US-Canada border Tuesday on his way to Vancouver to cover protests at the 2010 Olympic Games. John Weston Osburn, a long time indymedia activist, drove 2,000 miles from Salt Lake City to cover Games with the Vancouver Media Cooperative. He was interrogated and denied entry into Canada, making him the second US journalist to be denied entry in the last four days.

After he was turned around, he went back to the US and tried to re-enter Canada, this time at the truck crossing, where he was again denied entry due to past convictions for misdemeanors. This time, he flipped on his video camera to record the experience. Stopped by homeland security, Osburn was again interrogated

about the Olympic protests. When he told homeland security that he wanted to speak to a lawyer,

OSBURN: They told me I didn't have that right, and I wasn't in US or in Canada. I was in no mans land, as the officer described it. I asked again for my lawyer and he replied that he "owned me," he said "I own you," I was told to spread my legs and I was searched, then the put me in a holding cell, I was in the holding cell for about two hours, at one point I asked to use the bathroom, which they later allowed me to do but only, uh, they did so watching me.



PHOTO: LAUREN MCCHESENEY

John Weston Osburn covers the G20 from the streets of Pittsburgh in 2009.

VMC: In a disturbing pattern of recent interrogations of journalists coming to Vancouver, border guards seized Osburn's computer and notebooks.

OSBURN: Basically they ransacked my truck, they went through and they took my journals, my sketch-
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Cost of the Olympic Village:
\$1.261 billion

Cost of 6,400 new units of social housing: \$1.261 billion

"The IOC [International Olympics Committee] is like the WTO is like the IMF is like the World Bank in that it encourages the transfer of wealth from public hands to private pockets."

- Harjap Grewal, Olympics Resistance Movement

"I can't stand alongside the premier and John Furlong [Vanoc director] at the grand opening ceremony and give the impression that everything is okay. It's a moral decision. I'd much rather stand with the people who have to endure the tragic dimensions of the poverty imposed on the aboriginal people in this province and the tragic dimensions of that poverty in terms of our high suicide rates and homicides."

- Chief Stewart Phillip, President, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, representing 80 of the 203 bands in the province, refusing to participate in the games.

REPORT FROM THE STREETS with 2010.mediacoop.ca

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- 1 Go to twitter and set up and account twitter.com/signup
- 2 Validate your mobile number with Twitter - twitter.com/devices
- 3 Text your updates to twitter by sending text messages to 21212 from your validated phone number and tagging them #no2010 or #report2010. Any tweets tagged with #no2010 or #report2010 will automatically show up on 2010.mediacoop.ca.

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Defence Industry cont.

Other security tasks will be contracted out by various government departments.

The largest single security contract awarded to one company went to Contemporary Security Canada (CSC). They won a \$97.419 million contract awarded by Public Works and Government Services Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to provide 5000 private security guards at the games.

CSC is a consortium of private security companies including US Based Contemporary Group, Alberta based United Protection Security Group Inc., and Aero-guard Security Ltd. Contemporary Group has netted security contracts for every Olympics since 2000. United Protection is a public company based in Edmonton, that has hired personnel under the Temporary Foreign Worker program, and has a special program to hire Indigenous people to provide protection for energy projects in areas with a high percentage of Native people.

In 2007, the company signed letter of intent with the Lil'wat Nation for policing the 2010 Games. United Protection personnel guard the Devon Energy Corporation's Jackfish tar sands extraction, pipelines in Central and Northern Alberta and the Keephills 3 coal fired power plant, located 70km from Edmonton, which is jointly owned by EPCOR and TransAlta.

Carnival Corporation may be one of the less expected beneficiaries of the Olympic security budget. The cruise ship company will receive \$76 million in return for providing floating accommodation for police arriving during the Games.

Other security contractors have locked down smaller but still significant rewards for their goods and services. Among these are Honeywell Canada, granted \$30.5 million by the federal government to supply and maintain "intrusion detection equipment" for use at Olympic venues.

Weapons manufacturers Thales Canada and Lockheed Martin were awarded a contract for an undisclosed amount in order to develop two "passive coherent location radar" systems for the Games.

Iavor Georgeff, the person responsible for Software Integration & Quality Assurance at VANOC, was a software engineer for Thales Australia for over two years. Thales Canada is heavily involved in Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, and Lockheed Martin is the biggest recipient of defense contracts in the US.

Richmond's MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. received a \$4.8 million contract to set-up and manage "perimeter intrusion detection solutions" for the 2010 Olympics. The company is a partner with Israel Aerospace Industries in a \$100 million federal contract to build an unknown number of Heron surveillance drones, used over Afghanistan.

And while they might not get a direct piece of the security budget pie, Rheinmetall Canada will demo their overhauled Air Defence Anti Tank System (missile launchers with command post) in Vancouver during the Games. Once the five rings have left town, the system will be brought to Afghanistan.

After the Games have left Vancouver, it will be on to new places, and perhaps more importantly, on to new sources of funding for yet another epic security mobilization. The 2012 Olympics in London have been called the country's largest security operation since WWII, and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani has already taken a consulting contract to ready Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Olympics.

Poverty Olympics cont.

goalie after Gordie Homeless was ejected from the game by a biased referee, the Pigeon Park Eagles played with spirit and triumphed over the bully tactics of the Vanoc Predators – much to the delight of the crowd.

"I'm really excited. It feels like I'm at the Olympics," said an animated spectator to my right.

The Broken Promise Slalom had just two competitors - Premier Gordon Campbell and Prime Minister Steven Harper - which brought a lot of reaction from the exuberant crowd. The crowd didn't know who to boo louder. Both competitors managed to miss all four commitment gates: Build 3200 Housing Units, Raise Welfare by 50%, 220 Low Income Units at Athlete's Village, and End Barriers to Welfare. Instead, they B-lined it straight for the finish line.

The final event was a gold medal-wrestling match between The Community and Mr. Condo Developer. The Community was represented by four small children and Mr. Condo was a man with black horns and a matching black suit. In the initial rounds of the match Mr. Condo ruthlessly pinned each community member one-by-one. But just when all hope appeared to be lost, The Community changed their strategy, unified and worked together to tag-team Mr. Condo to defeat.

The community spirit was palpable to anyone in attendance. The organization and participation in the event came solely from the community. It was moving to see how clearly the issues behind poverty in this neighbourhood could be presented in short satirical theatrical pieces created and enacted by DTES residents.

Postering cont.

trayed the Olympic rings as handcuffs, clashed with the "optics of the Olympics."

"Hastings street is a corridor being used for transit for Olympics traffic... The way the city is perceived is very delicate," said Drury.

"It's ironic that they've spent millions of dollars on posters, billboards, paint jobs, and new buildings to construct a facade that doesn't represent the Downtown Eastside," he said.

Drury is planning his constitutional challenge.

MINIMUM PRICE TO ATTEND MEN'S GOLD MEDAL HOCKEY GAME: \$2,450

MINIMUM PRICE TO ATTEND WOMEN'S GOLD MEDAL HOCKEY GAME: \$295

MAXIMUM PRICE TO ATTEND PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDAL ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY GAME: \$20

VANCOUVER SURVIVAL GUIDE: TIPS FOR HOW TO SPEND YOUR FIRST DAY

1. Sign a legal release and get it to the legal team, include a list of people you want contacted in case of arrest.
2. Write down the legal number in permanent marker somewhere on your body
3. Stock up on high density foods like nuts and dried fruit.
4. Get a "Sports Top" water bottle so that you can rinse your face off if you get pepper-sprayed.
5. If you plan on participating in street actions, pick up ear plugs, goggles, and a bandana to protect yourself. (You can find goggles and ear plugs at Home Depot, 900 Terminal Ave.)
6. Soak the Bandana in apple cider vinegar and store it in a ziplock bag.
7. Set up a twitter account and link it to your cell phone (see instructions on front page.)
8. Go to twitter.com/vanmediacoop and click "receive mobile updates" to receive trusted tweets.

Reporter Detained cont.

books, my computer, my digital camera, they thumbed through that, I'm assuming they made copies but that I don't want to speculate on that, but they did definitely go through it. Then I was fingerprinted and I was photographed, when I asked if I had a choice of being fingerprinted and photographed I was told no, my tape of filming being turned away, they erased the tape.

VMC: Osburn says he was prepared to have to deal with some issues at the border, but he was surprised by his experience.

OSBURN: I was kind of expecting, I was expecting to get kind of shook down, but I wasn't expecting the type of just, the animosity and just the humiliation. Even though it was only two hours, it was a really unsettling experience, because they made me well aware that I had no rights, they made me well aware that I had no rights and there was no one there to protect me.

VMC: Though Osburn is the first to be interrogated by US homeland security, his experience shadows that of other independent journalists trying to enter Canada on the eve of the 2010 Olympics. Democracy Now! Host Amy Goodman was interrogated about the games in November. Last Saturday, US journalist Martin Macias Jr was turned away at the border. At least two other independent journalists were subjected to lengthy interrogations at the US-Canada border on their way to Vancouver to cover resistance to the 2010 Games.

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Corporate Spotlight: **RONA**

2008 profits: \$160,199,000

\$68 million sponsorship, Official Home Improvement Partner.

Canada's renovations, gardening and housing giant, Rona's corporate and franchise retail branch includes 77 big-box depots and 140 smaller stores. An early player in the greenwashing game, the firm currently sources 2% of its wood from the Forest Stewardship Council, which has "certified" parts of the Athabasca tar sands region in Alberta as using sustainable forest practices.

Rona will pay 100 employees their salaries to volunteer at the 2010 Games. Slogan: "Doing it Right."