

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Capilano College to extend its reading break during 2010 Olympic Games**

(NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.)—To provide its students with the opportunity to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime global learning experience, Capilano College will extend its normal two-day reading break to 11 days during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. As per normal reading breaks, all College services, such as the child care centre and the library, will remain open and available to students and members of the community.

The College believes that an extended break from February 12 to 28 will present its students with a unique opportunity to participate in the 2010 Winter Games in a meaningful way.

“By extending our reading break during the 2010 Games, our students will have the chance to gain the kind of real-life experience that could not be taught in a classroom,” said College president, Dr. Greg Lee. “We are prepared to help the 2010 Games, our communities, and most of all, our students, through this exceptional opportunity.”

Because of its unique position to serve all the communities of Vancouver through the Howe Sound Corridor and on to Mt. Currie, Capilano College has been exploring ways to maximize its student experience during the global event since the news of Vancouver’s initial bid became public.

In the first step of a broad 2010 strategy, the College welcomed two visitors from Australia’s University of Western Sydney who shared their institution’s experiences from Sydney’s 2000 Olympic Games. Both speakers stated that they should have started planning for the Sydney Games earlier.

“We really listened and immediately made 2010 an important part of our strategy and educational plan,” said Capilano College’s 2010 coordinator, Casey Dorin. “We’ve had student presentations around the 2010 Games and have had several guest speakers attend the College to talk about potential opportunities surrounding the event.”

Educate! Participate! Celebrate! has become the College’s theme for its involvement in the Games and it continues to explore more ways to provide experiential opportunities for its students, such as volunteer training and building the Games further into its curricular mix. An extended reading break will provide Capilano College students with a chance to volunteer and participate. Plus, the College is looking at ways to celebrate the event with its own offering of various activities that will showcase its exceptional educational services.

“We see the Winter Games as being a unique opportunity for Capilano College to build on its excellence with enhanced academic programming, opportunities for student participation, and special celebratory activities,” Dorin said, adding, “We want to help support the Games and at the same time have our students experience them firsthand. ”