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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**SARA JENNINGS** was born and raised in Whistler and has been active for years in several Whistler non-profits. She has a passion for the outdoors and for sport and grew up enjoying the Olympic Games.

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## WHISTLER WATCH

Whistler Watch hopes that **ALL** athletes, from **ALL** nations perform to the best of their abilities and enjoy their stay.

However, we are concerned about the corporatization, greenwashing, forced nationalism and erosion of civil liberties - endemic in all mega-events, especially the Olympics.

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### TAKE ACTION!

Let the International Olympic Committee (IOC) know you want change.

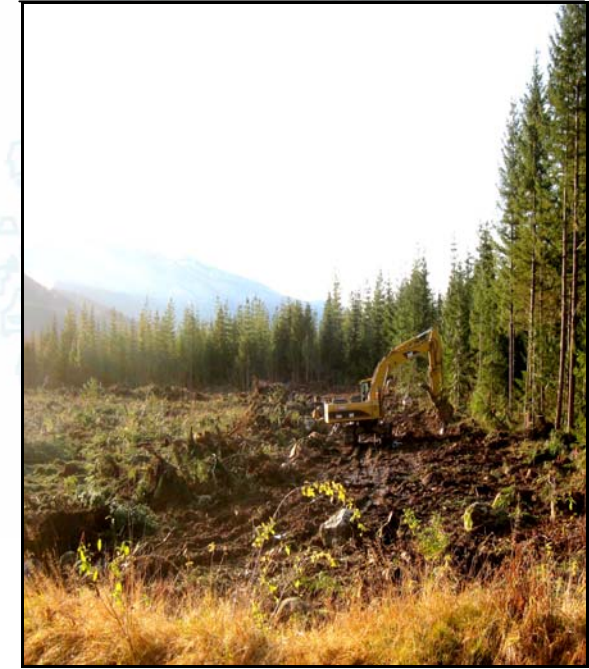
1. Take part in the Olympic reform and resistance movement
2. Write letters to local/ international papers
3. Email IOC president Jacques Rogge at: [jacques.rogge@ioc.olympic.org](mailto:jacques.rogge@ioc.olympic.org)

For more information email:  
[whistlerwatch@hotmail.com](mailto:whistlerwatch@hotmail.com)  
or visit  
[www.whistlerwatch.org](http://www.whistlerwatch.org)

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## CHANGES FOR FUTURE OLYMPIC GAMES

1. **Re-use Existing Sporting Facilities**  
- Host the Olympic games in fewer locations.
2. **Eliminate Sliding Sports** – with the visible effects of climate change, there's no excuse for the continuation of sports that consume vast amounts of energy and water, and serve only a handful of athletes.
3. **Make Games Spectator-free** - Rely on broadcasting the games – this would have a **HUGE** positive impact on the environment.
4. **Accountability** - Make host cities accountable to their bid promises.
5. Demand that IOC set minimum standards for environmental & social impacts on host countries.
6. **Eliminate IOC bureaucracy & profits** – elected, audited after every Games, subject to highest Human Rights standards of host or home (Swiss) nation.



***Whistler  
Welcomes  
the World***

***But... at what  
cost?***



A small part of the rare wooded wetland that is now gone...

## ENVIRONMENT

### HABITAT LOSS:

**Highway 99:** Road re-routing dissected the critical Pinecrest Wetlands habitat, resulting in death of hundreds of red-legged frogs – a federally-listed “species at risk.”

### **Whistler Olympic Park -Forest Logged for Nordic Events:**

- Grizzly Bear habitat, and populations impacted
- More trails built than will be used by Olympic competitors. The rest, the Legacy Trails were unnecessary
- Pressure for Whistler Olympic Park to remain financially sustainable will push further development of the area.

**Bus Transfer Station:** Built on a red-listed (rare) forested wetland.

- Environmental studies were inadequate and ignored previous studies identifying the area as “rare” ecosystem.
- Local government and residents had no say in new location, since it was built on Crown land.
- Due to tight timelines, other sites & options not seriously considered.

### TRANSPORTATION:

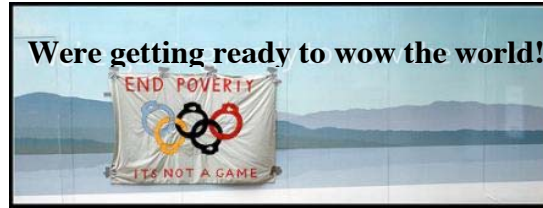
- Rail was ignored as viable transportation to Whistler.
- Olympic organizers (VANOC) drive around in 4,500+ single occupancy GMC SUVs and pick-up trucks.
- Olympic spectators and dignitaries flying in from around the world, many on private jets and limos.

### ENERGY & WATER USAGE:

Energy usage for 2010 Games has been massive. The biggest “white elephant” is the Whistler Sliding Centre, site of bobsled, luge & skeleton. Keeping the track cold requires more energy than that used by Whistler & Blackcomb mountains **combined!**

### WASTE GENERATION:

While attempts were made to minimize waste, it can still be spotted everywhere - from banning re-usable mugs & water bottles in venues (in favour of Coke selling its single-use drinks), to areas being paved to house “temporary” structures.



## SOCIAL COSTS

### HOUSING

- Many locals were evicted from their rental suites for the Olympic period, often with little warning, to house the police and RCMP.
- Rental costs have increased dramatically as landlords cash in on the housing crunch.
- Homeless residents have been relocated from private lands they have lived on for years to neighbouring towns.

### FINANCIAL COSTS

- The 2010 Olympics are expected to cost \$6 billion budget, with a \$1 billion security budget. (*VANOC is not subject to freedom of information, so costs will never be known!*)
- At the same time, social spending in areas of education, health, arts and environment has seriously decreased.

### EROSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES

- Local activists were phoned, followed & photographed by the police, despite a long history of peaceful activism.
- No access to Olympic venues for demonstrators & use of “protest pens” despite assurances from police that Canada’s freedom of speech laws would be protected.
- Artists hired by Olympic organizers asked to sign contracts stating they will not speak out against the games
- Whistler Council not sitting for **three** months – Whistlerites left with no local representation.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Violence incidents against women expected to rise 10-36% during the Games. Howe Sound Women’s Shelter is preparing for an increase in services, despite recent government funding cuts.
- Over 40,000 women were trafficked for the Athens 2004 Olympics and over 10,000 for the Sydney Games.

## Greenest Games?



## CORPORATIZATION OF DEMOCRACY

### NATIONALISM OF SPORT

The Olympic ideals represent athletes striving to do their best, nations coming together for friendly competition, and celebrating the human spirit. The reality is corporate dictatorship, nationalistic pride instead of world unity, and competition to be the best at all costs.

### UNCEDED FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY

British Columbia is legally Indigenous territory. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 states that the Crown must sign treaties with the Indigenous people before land can be ceded to the colony. This did not happen in most parts of B.C., including the host Lil’wat and Squamish Nation lands, where Whistler is located.



Site of Whistler Medals Plaza – the last urban forest in Whistler Village