



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
OCTOBER 22, 2008*

An Open Letter from the First Nations Summit to Jacques Rogge and John Furlong calling for the immediate removal of Richard Pound

Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver) — The First Nations Summit today released the attached open letter to Jaques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and John Furlong, President of the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) calling for the immediate removal of Richard Pound from the IOC and VANOC as a result of his colonial and racist remarks in the August 9, 2008 edition of La Presse newspaper.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

For Further Information:

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FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

October 22, 2008

Jacques Rogge, President
International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

John Furlong, CEO
VANOC
#400 – 3585 Graveley Street
Vancouver, BC
V5K 5J5

Dear Mr. Rogge and Mr. Furlong,

Re: August 9, 2008 comments of Richard Pound in La Presse Newspaper

On August 9, Richard Pound provided the following colonial and racist remarks during a La Presse interview when asked about the potential embarrassment of holding the Olympic Games in China, with China's human rights record: "We must not forget that 400 years ago, Canada was a land of savages, with scarcely 10,000 inhabitants of European origin, while in China, we're talking about a 5,000-year-old civilization." Mr. Pound's remarks are highly offensive, hurtful and unacceptable to the Aboriginal people of Canada.

According to the Olympic Charter, the goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport **practiced without discrimination of any kind** and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play. Clearly Mr. Pound's statements are in clear contravention of the Olympic Charter which he is expected to promote and uphold as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and a board member of the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC).

There has been ample time for Mr. Pound to apologize for his remarks. However, the only clarification issued to date has been Mr. Pound's comments that his statements were taken out of context. We find his silence and unwillingness to apologize very telling as he is clearly standing by his offensive position. We also note, that in February of 2007 the IOC ethics committee recommended that Mr. Pound exercise greater prudence in his public pronouncements following inaccurate and damaging statements regarding doping in the Tour de France. Clearly Mr. Pound's latest statements have shown his complete disregard for the IOC's Ethics Committee recommendations.

In the complete absence of any apology from Mr. Pound for his unacceptable and offensive remarks and given his past track record, we cannot see how he can continue to work under the Olympic Charter and maintain his positions within the Olympic family. We therefore call on you for the immediate removal of Mr. Richard Pound from both the IOC and VANOC.

Yours sincerely,

First Nations Summit

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Grand Chief Edward John

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Dan Smith

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Grand Chief Doug Kelly

Cc. Four Host First Nations

Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister

Hon. Gordon Campbell, Premier of BC

Hon. James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics

Mr Youssoupha Ndiaye, Chairman, IOC Ethics Commission

Mr. Jack Poole, Chairman, VANOC Board of Directors