

Poole Meets Activists

Charlie Smith
Georgia Staight
Thursday, July 11, 2002

The chairman and CEO of the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, Jack Poole, has written to Mayor Philip Owen requesting "factual information and context" about Expo 86. Poole wrote the letter after a July 3 meeting with a local watchdog group called Impact of the Olympics on Community. "Jim Green, who attended the meeting, reported first-hand experience with over 1,000 people who lost their residences and 11 people who died because of EXPO '86," Poole wrote. "I would appreciate hearing from the City regarding the accuracy of these numbers, along with any background that might help us respond to comments about the negative effects of EXPO."

IOC spokesperson Am Johal told the Straight that his group's Web site (www.olympicsforall.ca/) includes a research paper by housing expert Kris Olds, who examined the Expo evictions.

Poole's letter to Mayor Owen stated that bid corporation officials believe that the Olympics should not result in any evictions of tenants—particularly on the Downtown Eastside and in the Downtown South and Mt. Pleasant neighbourhoods—because there would likely be a surplus of hotel rooms while the Games are taking place.