

Log house will showcase B.C. at 2006 Turin Games

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THE PROVINCE | The government of B.C. is sending a log house to

Turin, Italy for the 2006 Olympic Games to get international attention for the province as it prepares to host the Games in 2010.

The project is called B.C. Cana-

da House and will feature displays about B.C. wood products, technology, culture and tourism. It will be located in the heart of Turin, where many Olympic fes-

tivities will take place.

"At the end of the Games in Torino the Olympic flag will be presented to Vancouver for the 2010 Games and I think this is just part of our opportunity to showcase what B.C. has to offer and what the B.C. 2010 Games have to offer," said Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen in a phone interview Tuesday from 100 Mile House, where the house is under construction.

Sitka Log Homes of 100 Mile House has almost finished building the 4,200-square-foot house. The family-run business previously built three lodges for the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City.

"It is a beautiful structure," said Hansen, who toured the house Tuesday.

Once B.C. Canada House is completed, it will be disassem-



Artist's drawing of B.C. Canada House, built in 100 Mile House.

bled, put into crates and shipped from 100 Mile House to Vancouver for a heat treatment that will eliminate any bugs or fungus that might be in the wood.

The components of the home will then be shipped to Italy to be reassembled in Turin. The house should be ready to open to the public in January 2006 and will remain open until March. After that, the house will be donated to

the city of Turin.

The budget for the project is \$4 million and the province is seeking some private funding as well as a contribution from the federal government.

"This really is a fabulous opportunity for us and we're going to make sure that we maximize the benefit to the province," Hansen said.

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