



PRESS RELEASE

February 11, 2010

Vancouver – GLISA International, proud sponsor of PRIDE House at the Olympics!

As a sponsor, the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association (GLISA) is proud to announce the opening on February 8, 2010 of PRIDE House, the gay-themed retreat for athletes, coaches and all visitors to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics:

www.PRIDEHouse.ca

Organizers believe PRIDE House can help fight homophobia in sports and the general public, according to Gay Whistler CEO Dean Nelson. While they hope gay athletes will use the Pride House to declare pride in their sexual orientation, the House is open to all.

“Anybody with an open mind is welcome to drop in,” Nelson said. “We anticipate that quite a few people coming in will be straight people who are curious about what we’re doing and what it’s like to be a gay athlete. We hope it will instil more confidence to all athletes to be authentic.”

“Why did we decide to sponsor PRIDE House? Sponsoring PRIDE House ties in perfectly with our goals in linking the LGBT Sport, Cultural and Human Rights components of our own Outgames events, to mainstream sports like the Olympics,” stated GLISA International female co-President Julia Applegate.

Wessel van Kampen, GLISA International male co-President adds: “We were given this opportunity via our Continental Association in North America to participate and we believe it is important to show the sports world gathered here in Vancouver and Whistler these weeks, that the LGBT sports world and GLISA are active partners”.

Featured in PRIDE House will be various art installations including a presentation of Jeff Sheng's 'Fearless' project, a photo series of openly gay high school and collegiate athletes. A speaker's chalet will be set up where people can share their stories on tape.

“In no way does it imply the person’s sexual orientation,” Nelson said. “Also we are working with local sporting communities to let them know that this pavilion is available for everyone to come by and have a comfortable place to meet new friends.”

Greg Larocque, president GLISA North America states: “It’s the hope and ambition of the PRIDE House organizers and GLISA that we jointly set a new tradition for future Olympic events of openness and respect for all athletes regardless of their sexual preferences.”

The next Continental Outgames will be held in 2011 at the Olympic sites in Vancouver, Canada and in Wellington, New Zealand. The 3rd edition of the World Outgames will be held in Antwerp Belgium in 2013.

For additional information, please contact Julia Applegate: Julia.Applegate@GLISA.org

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