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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **Dr. Donald Rix, John Furlong and Bruce Hall recognized for their contribution to British Columbia with JIBC Honorary Degrees**

NEW WESTMINSTER – The late Dr. Donald B. Rix, noted medical professional, businessman and philanthropist; John Furlong, CEO, Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and; the former Resort Municipality of Whistler Fire Chief and JIBC Board of Governors Chair Bruce Hall, were named as recipients of Honorary Degrees by JIBC President Jack McGee. The Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees will be conferred at the JIBC's June 22, 2010 Convocation, to be held at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, starting at 11:00 a.m.

The honorary degrees affirm and recognize the significant contributions of Rix, Furlong and Hall as leaders in the community and the positive impact that they have made on the quality of life in the province and across the country.

The late Dr. Donald B. Rix was a highly respected member of the medical profession and a visionary corporate leader, widely recognized and admired for his selfless service to British Columbia. He was also a generous philanthropist, a dedicated volunteer and an extraordinary supporter and champion of higher education, and of the JIBC; for, as he once said, "education is the best investment you can make".

John Furlong is best known for his high-profile role in securing and successfully staging the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler. Furlong's success with the Games was built on a history of sports administration success and a long-held, personal motivation to improve the fabric of Canadian society.

As a career fire fighter for over 30 years, Bruce Hall has enjoyed the opportunity to directly impact the lives of many in the communities that he has served. He has also influenced and contributed to the professionalism of fire services through his leadership of various Boards and Associations and his relationship with the JIBC, where he served as Chair of the Board of Governors and advocated for the development of the JIBC's Bachelor of Fire & Safety Studies.



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“While Convocation is a celebration of accomplishment for students, it marks the beginning of a life of service to the community for many of our graduates”, said McGee. “The commitment demonstrated by Dr. Rix, John Furlong and Bruce Hall during their years of service to the community, serve as inspiring examples for the future community leaders being educated at the JIBC.”

Hugh Gaffney, Chair of the JIBC Board of Governors said, “It will be a great privilege to confer Honorary Degrees on Dr. Rix, John Furlong and my erstwhile colleague on the JIBC Board of Governors, Bruce Hall. They have all given much of themselves for the benefit of all British Columbians and it is fitting that their contributions are recognized.”

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