

NCRA Award Application – CITR News

Title of entry: Poverty Olympics

A) Biography of the producer

Andrew Longhurst is Co-Director of the CiTR News Department. He is studying human geography and history at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He is very passionate about independent radio, and was proud to be covering the Vancouver Olympics from an alternative perspective.

B) Program note

This feature story provided coverage of the 2010 Poverty Olympics and Torch Relay. The Poverty Games held in early February, days before the start of the official Olympics, was organized by numerous community groups to highlight the social costs of hosting the 2010 Olympic Games. The Poverty Games used satire to draw attention to numerous social problems plaguing Canada's poorest neighbourhood, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, including the lack of social housing, squalid and often pest-infested rental housing conditions, and the criminalization of homelessness.

CiTR News Co-Director Andrew Longhurst meets up with the Poverty Torch Relay as it makes its way into the Downtown Eastside coming all the way from West Vancouver. He speaks with a Downtown Eastside resident about the Poverty Games, as well as other community members and activists standing in solidarity with Downtown Eastside residents. Andrew marches with the Poverty Torch to the venue of the Poverty Games, interviewing people along the way, including the president of the Burnaby Teachers' Association. After reporting on the Poverty Games, including the "Housing Hurdles," Andrew interviews Vancouver City Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, a vocal critic of the Games and the only councillor to attend the Poverty Olympics.