



News Release

For Release: IMMEDIATELY

Date: January 5th, 2010

Audition for additional buskers January 14th

Attention all buskers: TransLink is holding a special open audition for musicians in mid-January. The auditions are being held to add more performers to TransLink's existing Musician Program. These new acts will supplement the program prior to and over the duration of the Olympics.

Single and duo musical acts will be auditioned on a single day, with successful candidates offered a license to perform at select stations, located primarily in the downtown core, from February 1st to March 31st.

"We have been asking people to plan their Olympic transportation as much as possible in advance, to 'know before you go' and to allow a little more time when making transit travel plans" said Bill Knight, Community Relations Officer for TransLink.

"Because we know there could be times during this period when customers may have to wait for transit, we think that supplementing the current program during the Games makes a lot of sense".

Knight added that, "Based on our experiences with other large events, we do know that there will be times when we will be asking people to be patient and to anticipate that there will be lots of crowds out and about, using the transit system during certain times of the day and evening. Providing a venue for entertainment in key areas during busy times will hopefully make any waits more enjoyable for all".

Auditions will be held:

When: Thursday, January 14th 2010 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: TransLink Head Office
4th Floor Metrotower II, 4720 Kingsway Burnaby.

Audition Information and Musician Program History

Applications will only be accepted on the day of auditions. Auditions are on a limited first-come-first served basis; once filled, no further applications will be accepted.

Applications will be available in-person starting at 8:30 AM on that day at the audition venue. Application forms and additional program information will also be available on-line at www.translink.ca. Applications may be downloaded and completed in advance but must be brought to the TransLink head office on the day of the audition.

There is no cost for this audition. Successful candidates for the limited Olympic engagement period will be required to attend a licensing session at the end of the month. Cost for the two-month license is \$ 50.00.

Concurrent with the issuance of temporary Olympic licenses, a new pilot Musician Program will be developed over the next three months. The program will be shaped by input from current musicians and the general public. Information on this process will be available later in the new year.

The new program will look at a more targeted range of locations and will operate within SOCAN licensing requirements. Details on a cost recovery model for this new program will form part of the discussions. A review of the new pilot program would be conducted at the end of the licensing period.

This year marks the twenty-fourth year for the Musician Program, established at the conclusion of Expo 86.