



The Best Place on Earth

Message from Ida Chong
Minister of Healthy Living and Sport



I would like to welcome the athletes, officials and spectators to this year's Vancouver International Soccer Festival.

The importance of sport in our society cannot be understated; it forms a vital part of our lives, on our neighbourhood playgrounds, in our community centres and our schools. It provides a focus for our young people, a goal to aim for, and helps them develop of a sense of fair play, teamwork and co-operation.

In February and March of this year, we had the chance to show the world how the power of sport can bring not only a community together, but an entire nation.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games were an opportunity for us to not only promote sport and healthy living, they were a chance for us to bring awareness to the barriers some people face to participating in sport.

The Vancouver International Soccer Festival will continue this important work – to leverage sport, games and competition in an effort to enlighten and educate people about what we can do when we look beyond those barriers, to create understanding, acceptance and inclusion, and to inspire young people to use these tools to create a better world.

Congratulations to Adri Hamael and his team for organizing this week's event, and to the many volunteers who will make it a success.

Best of luck to all the competitors! I hope your weekend is challenging, fulfilling and inspirational.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ida Chong". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister of Healthy Living and Sport
