



John Furlong
Chief Executive Officer
Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

“There has been euphoria here, a change. Something has happened, not just in Vancouver but all over the country. I think the people of the country have taken a different position around these Games. They have not been spectators, they have lived every moment with us. I think that is something we can all be proud of.”

John A. Furlong
Chief Executive Officer, VANOC

John Furlong is the leader behind the team that organized and staged the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. From the very beginning of the project, Furlong envisioned that the Games could be a true nation builder, helping to improve the fabric of Canadian society. IOC President Jacques Rogge remarked in a Canadian Press interview at how Vancouver had taken on the Games in a way that was “unheard of in the Olympic movement,” and considered them as belonging to all of Canada, not surprised that the Games had become a catalyst for national unity.

Prior to his appointment at VANOC in 2004, Furlong was the President and Chief Operating Officer for the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation. In his role, he became the Bid’s international face and key spokesperson, tirelessly clocking more than 1.2 million miles in his travels to promote the Bid.

listed Furlong as one of the worlds top five most influential Olympic Officials in both 2009 and 2010. Most recently, he was named Sport BC’s Sportsman of the Decade.

Furlong has been involved with athletics all his life, having competed at the international level in Basketball, European handball and Squash. He became Canadian Squash Champion in 1986. Furlong has been a long time member of the Canadian Olympic Committee and has led many high profile sport organizations in Canada.

In 2009, Furlong was named Canada’s Most Influential Sport Figure by both the Globe and Mail and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and listed #1 on Vancouver Magazine’s Vancouver Power 50 2009 list.

Around the Rings Magazine has listed Furlong as one of the worlds top five most influential Olympic Officials in both 2009 and 2010. Most recently, he was named Sport BC's Sportsman of the Decade

He has been awarded with Honorary Doctorate Degrees in Laws (2) and Technology(1) from UBC, The Justice Institute of BC, and BCIT.

Furlong's service to sport has landed him with numerous other forms of recognition - among them The IOC's Olympic Order and the IPC's Paralympic Order. He was voted Canada's Sport Executive of the Year for his contributions to the Vancouver 2010 Bid, named Vancouver's Executive of the Year by the Vancouver Executive Association and elected in 2010 as a Fellow of the BC Chamber of Commerce..

John was acclaimed as the 2004 Canadian Sport Awards' Sport Leadership Winner for his service to sport in Canada over a lifetime. He has won Vancouver's most prestigious tourism award for the promotion of Vancouver around the world and was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame as the 2004 W.A.C. Bennett Award winner.

Born in Tipperary, Ireland, Furlong has five children and ten grandchildren.