



ALBERTA SKI JUMPING  
& NORDIC COMBINED



## Update – July 10, 2009

### Decision on Women's Ski Jumping

The Globe and Mail Last updated on Friday, Jul. 10, 2009 01:56PM EDT

The B.C. Supreme Court has rejected a high-profile bid by women ski jumpers to be included in the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Judge Lauri Ann Fenlon ruled against an elite, international group of 15 women ski jumpers who had sued VANOC over their exclusion from Olympic ski jumping at the 2010 Games. They had asked for a declaration that the Games must either include women's ski jumping or have no ski jumping competitions at all.

There are three ski jumping events for men on the Games' schedule, and none for women. Women ski jumpers argued this was a breach of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Ski jumping is the only Winter Olympics discipline restricted to male athletes.

The determined quest of the women ski jumpers to take part at the 2010 Olympics had drawn widespread support and sympathy, casting one of the few clouds over the coming Games. Canada's most famous winter athlete, former Olympic ski champion Nancy Greene Raine, was among those who spoke out in favour of the women's cause. Even VANOC officials praised the women ski jumpers.

In court, VANOC contended that the decision to keep the women out was made by the International Olympic Committee, which ruled there were not enough top-flight female ski jumpers to warrant an Olympic event, a claim hotly contested by the women. Local Olympic organizers said they have no power to go against the wishes of the powerful IOC

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