

formed

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es report on fatal luge accident

helpless body hit as he flew out of the track.

In his last of six training runs before the Games, the 21-year-old athlete from Bakuriani, Georgia, crashed on the 16th and final curve of the Whistler course. After hurtling through the high-pressure curve, his sled hit the track wall and the impact threw him out of the track to strike a wooden barrier and metal post.

Pawlowski did make three recommendations for the Whistler Sliding Centre, the International Luge Federation (FIL) and the federation governing bobsleigh and skeleton (FIBT). He called on the Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies body - which now operates the Whistler Sliding Centre - to complete a "comprehensive safety audit" of the track, reviewing elements such as the speeds and protective barriers and measures.

While noting that best practices appear to have been followed in the construction of the track, Pawlowski wrote that "Mr. Kumaritashvili's death has proven the Whistler track capable of producing a serious incident, despite all of the safety measures that have been previously considered adequate."

Keith Bennett, president and CEO of Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies, said in a statement that officials have already started preparing a framework for a complete safety audit and consulting with the sliding federations.

"The safety audit will include: approaching research institutions interested in undertaking a comprehensive independent safety audit of the track, (and) working with the University of British Columbia to develop physiological guidelines for public-program pilots and passengers," the statement said.

In the statement, Bennett also expressed hopes that the "thorough, balanced and informative" coroner's report would offer "closure." A memorial bench at the Whistler Sliding Centre has been installed to

honour Kumaritashvili, he added.

Pawlowski also recommended that FIL and FIBT officials review their practices for track construction, design and certification and consider adding measures such as "independent, safety-oriented audits." His third recommendation, directed at the FIL, called for "more compulsory, venue-specific training immediately before major competitions such as the Olympic Games and in the qualifying period before such events."

Subsequent media reports have quoted Kumaritashvili's father and the head of Georgia's Olympic Committee rejecting the coroner's findings and the statements about Kumaritashvili's lack of experience.

A report by FIL officials, released in April, concluded that Kumaritashvili's crash was caused by "a complex series of interrelated events," including driving errors made in curve 15 and 16 and the "catapult effect" as his sled hit the wall and tossed him out of the track.

The FIL report said the sled reacted in an unforeseen way to the impact, and "neither the computer simulations nor the technical experts... foresaw the possibility of the event that happened."

The B.C. coroner's report reviews the progress of planning the track that produced top speeds in men's luge nearly 20 kilometres per hour faster than projected in a 2004 final design document, and notes that the international sliding federations and Vancouver Olympic organizing committee (VANOC) officials felt the challenge of the high speeds could be counteracted through expanded training time and progressive steps in initial runs to acclimatize athletes to the track.

The report also describes the training process for the international sliding athletes learning the fast and technical track.

ed on possible stock sale: Alder

der, longtime local resident and former president of Whistler. He said on Tuesday morning for "a number of weeks" such an announcement works.

er said much more information is necessary and it remains unclear what will actually unfold in the ownership of Whistler's large resort.

id he didn't want to say whether he has more information about the possible public stock sale. He said he would like to see Whistlerites in B.C. be able to buy as much as they want in the

"Let's keep our fingers crossed," he said.

Stock prices, conditions of sale and whether shareholders would have any say in how the company is run are among the unanswered questions, Alder said.

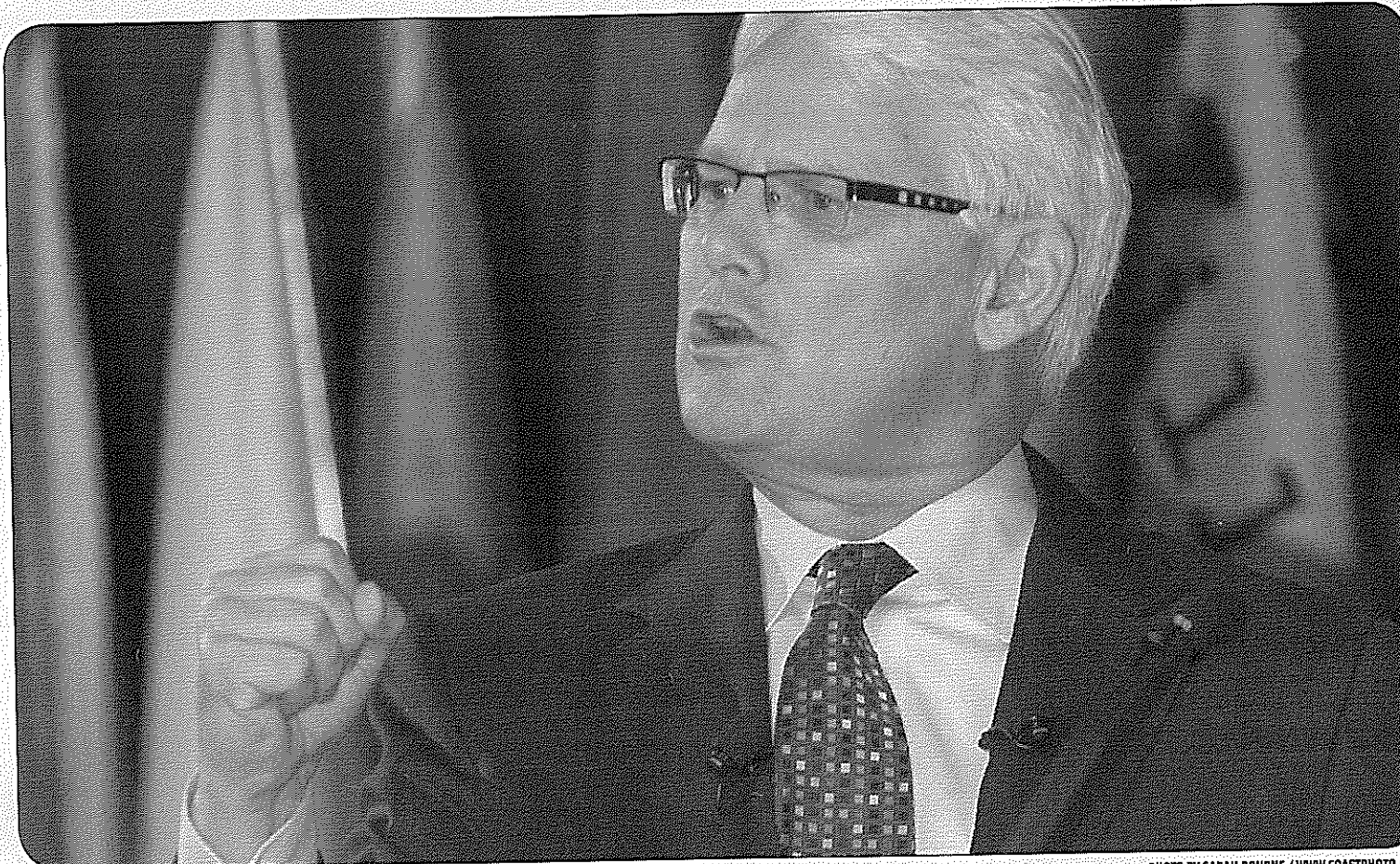
Fortress's financial woes with Intrawest have been making headlines for more than a year, with missed debt repayment deadlines, refinancing attempts and even a scheduled and subsequently cancelled auction of assets during the 2010 Olympics in February.

Alder has been following the Fortress/Intrawest financial saga closely and talking to people behind the

WB. In January, he went public with his idea and desire to see community members own shares in North America's No. 1 ski resort.

"I don't think we can get to 50 per cent. I think if we owned at least 20 or 30 per cent, we'd have a say in what happens, because we would own part of it," Alder told *The Question* in January.

WB is considered to be the jewel in Intrawest's crown, but the *Globe* reported that the company's lack of diversification has been a "disincentive" for buyers. According to the article, the sale package would include



GO, TEAM: B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell gives a pep talk to the delegates at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention in Whistler last Friday (Oct. 1). According to media reports on the speech, Campbell shared memories from the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics and joked about the Liberals' poor performance on the introduction of the HST. More than 1,500 local government representatives from across the province were in Whistler last week to attend the annual conference.

> RMOW COUNCIL NOTES

No appetite on council to enforce zoning

Forsyth's motion a non-starter; Mayor says 'no action taken' on asphalt plant

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Councillor Ralph Forsyth's motion to enforce the zoning at the Alpine Paving asphalt plant at Cheakamus Crossing didn't get any traction with the rest of council this week.

Nobody on council seconded the motion at Tuesday's (Oct. 5) regular meeting, so the proposal died without even being discussed at the table.

After the meeting, when asked if council addressed the asphalt plant situation in its closed-door session earlier that day, Mayor Ken Melamed said, "no action has been taken.

status quo."

Later Tuesday evening, Forsyth said he wasn't really surprised that his motion didn't go anywhere.

"I didn't think there was any appetite for them to proceed with it," he said.

Forsyth's sense is that council wants to step back from the contentious asphalt plant issue for a while and take a wait-and-see approach for now. He said he suspects the rest of council is waiting for the plant's owner, Frank Silveri, to make the next move.

Forsyth's motion was in response to recently released opinions from two lawyers that the asphalt operation isn't currently allowed in the zoning where the plant is located. But Melamed said after the Sept. 21 council meeting there would be "legal implications" if the zoning were to be enforced.

tract to repave a stretch of Highway 99 in Whistler, and some who have already moved into their new homes at Cheakamus Crossing are complaining about the prolific asphalt fumes. A couple of people writing on the Cheakamus Crossing Facebook page report that the fumes can be smelled inside the neighbourhood's homes - even with all the windows closed.

The plant is expected to shut down for the winter after the highway paving is complete. Melamed said during Tuesday's meeting that after some delays with the paving project, the completion date is now set for Oct. 22.

'Montgomery Stroll' could be new street name

splash in Whistler during the 2010 Games will soon be immortalized on local street signs, as their names are being used for the new streets in the Baxter Creek housing development above the Rainbow neighbourhood.

The four streets are set to be named after Ashleigh McIvor, 2010 Olympic ski cross champion and Sea to Sky resident; alpine skier Lauren Woolstencroft, who hauled in an unprecedented five gold medals at the 2010 Paralympics in Whistler; skeleton champion Jon Montgomery, who will forever be remembered in Whistler for his triumphant walk through the Village; and the Sea to Sky's Maëlle Ricker, who won snowboard cross gold.

While municipal staff members have suggested that all the street names end in "Legacy," as in "Ashleigh's Legacy" and "Montgomery's Legacy," council voted on Tuesday to

Aging in Place forum coming up

People of all ages are invited to take part in a forum designed to discuss how Whistler's doing on residents' ability to live in the resort through all stages of life.

The Aging in Place Community Forum takes place next Thursday (Oct. 14) from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Spruce Grove Field House. Everyone is welcome, light refreshments will be served and participation is free.

The forum is part of the ongoing review of Whistler's Official Community Plan (OCP). Feedback from the session will form the basis of a discussion paper on whether infrastructure and supports are available for people of all ages in Whistler, according to a press release from the municipality.

"The forum is for everybody and takes into consideration all ages, including people who grow up here, leave for university, and want to come back. The forum looks at how they fit into the community," Sarah Tipler, the municipality's Measuring Up coordinator, said in a statement.

According to the press release, aging in place is defined as the ability to remain in one's home and community safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age, income or ability throughout life's stages.

For more info on the OCP update, visit whistler2010.com.

Keep 911 free for emergencies

Whistler police are asking community members calling in with non-emergencies to make sure they phone the detachment's number instead of dialing 911. Whistler RCMP Sgt. Shawn LeMay stressed that while calls requesting services are all important to the RCMP, the 911 line needs to stay open for reporting incidents such as thefts or assaults in progress.

"Although noisy parties and noise complaints are very frustrating... we are asking people who are calling those matters in to use the non-emergency line," LeMay said. Police are committed to responding to those calls as soon as possible