



Message from Stan Hagen
Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts



On behalf of all British Columbians, welcome to BC Bike Race – The Pacific Traverse.

This inaugural race presents a wonderful opportunity to experience the spectacular beauty of Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and the Sea to Sky corridor on two wheels. And if the impressive scenery doesn't leave the participants breathless, the challenging trails and back roads of the course will, making the BC Bike Race an event not to miss.

The link between traditional tourism and sport and outdoor recreation is getting stronger. Visitors to the province are interested in the true BC experience.

In the next seven days, mountain bikers from across the country and around the world will traverse across rainforests, mountains and back-country trails – a wonderful preview of the incredible backdrop, gracious hospitality and tremendous amenities that the world will see in the next few years as we host the 2008 North American Indigenous Games and the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

I would also like to thank the organizing committee and the crew of volunteers who have contributed countless hours and enormous energy to design, organize and promote this event. Your hard work has helped showcase our province, its people and the remarkable health and social benefits of cycling.

Best wishes to all of the competitors. And to all of our guests, I hope you enjoy your visit to British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Stan Hagen
Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts
