



*Media Release
For immediate release.....*

Vancouver Island's adaptive snowsports instructors gear up for the 2009 / 2010 winter season

October 16, 2009 - Courtenay, BC. The ski season will soon be here and the volunteer instructors with the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) are getting ready for another exciting year at Mt. Washington Alpine Resort. In its 17th year, VISAS offers people with physical or mental disabilities the chance to participate in snowsports with downhill and cross country skiing, and snowboarding instruction.

The Learn to Ski Festival is an annual four day event that runs this season from Sunday, January 3th to Thursday, January 7th 2010. "For anyone with a disability who has never been on skis or a snowboard," said Bob Hodgson, co-chair of the 2010 Learn to Ski Festival, "it is a great opportunity to get involved and have four consecutive days of snowsport instruction and ski improvement."



The popular Learn to Ski Festival is limited to 35 students and is open to anyone over the age of six who has some ability to learn, with priority given to first time participants. "We have had people from as far away as Great Britain who have participated in the Festival," added Hodgson. "And we have fun on and off the snow, ending the week with a dress up banquet."

For more details on the Learn to Ski Festival and on how to apply, VISAS's annual Herb Bradley Coca Cola Classic fundraiser, on February 7th, volunteering, and information on other VISAS events, including the Racing and Ski Improvement program visit: www.visasweb.ca. Applications for the Learn to Ski must be received by December 16th, 2009 to be eligible. For additional information on the Festival contact Bob Hodgson at 250-339-6833 or email: curlew@shaw.ca

Photo caption: VISAS ski instructor Bob Hodgson with a student from the Learn to Ski Festival