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**Faces
of the**



Nation

Calvin Helin

Lawyer/author/businessman

- Age: 47
- Birthplace: The Tsimshian Nation from the Northern B.C. community of Lax Kw'alaams (Port Simpson)
- Canadian since: Birth

First Nations Richmondite Calvin Helin believes Canada is one of the best countries in the world in which to live, without a doubt. However, he still thinks the government can do more to make aboriginal people self-reliant. The longtime Richmond resident has written a book, *Dances with Dependency*, that addresses ways to improve Canada's indigenous people.

Personally though, Helin says he's travelled around the world and has yet to find a country as beautiful and great as Canada.

"At the end of the day, where else would you live?" Helin says. "Other countries are plagued with pollution and/or corruption.

"I also like the fact that Canada has a culture of openness and friendliness ... we are the more open-minded; the gentle cousin of the U.S."

Helin also believes Canada has an excellent reputation on the world stage.

"When I travel and people find out I am from Canada, they have nothing but good to say about Canadians and our country."

Canada Day will see Helin take a break and celebrate by relaxing with family and friends.

"Although I tend to work all the time, I will take the time to remember what a great country we live in."



John Furlong

CEO of the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) of the 2010 Olympics

- Age: 56
- Birthplace: Tipperary, Ireland
- Canadian since: 1978

John Furlong didn't plan on immigrating to Canada. He came in 1974 as a young adventurer with the thought of working in the northern part of the province as a teacher for a couple of years.

"This country, however, has an addictive appeal, a country where you could realize dreams," Furlong says. "It's a country where our pioneering efforts are rewarded ... there's a real spirit of entrepreneurship in Canada."

Furlong has a particularly fond outlook on his adopted country, comparing some of his experiences here to another special time of the year.

"It's like a second Christmas. We found out we won our Vancouver Olympic bid on July 2, 2003, and that in itself was a profoundly memorable day in Canada's history."

This Canada Day, Furlong will be in Guatemala at an IOC meeting. If he were in town, the Richmond resident would celebrate with his family and friends and reflect on the privilege of being a Canadian.

"I'll be recording the Canada Day show on Parliament Hill to watch when I return home ... I feel extremely fortunate and proud to be part of this great country."