



Spirit of BC
Victoria

Canada

Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night Celebration to Receive Canada 150 Funding

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Have plans for New Year's? Downtown Victoria will be the place to be on New Year's Eve for *Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night*, a major kick-off event to launch Canada's 150th anniversary year in 2017. The Greater Victoria Spirit Committee, in partnership with the City of Victoria, is pleased to announce a federal contribution of \$224,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage's [Canada 150 Fund](#) to host the *First Night* celebration.

"We are delighted to have received support from the Canada 150 Fund, which will make the *Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night* possible," said Alan Lowe, Chair of the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee.

The City of Victoria is one of 19 municipalities across Canada to receive support from the Canada 150 Fund, designed to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada.

"On December 31, a thousand lights will fill the Canadian sky from coast to coast, setting the tone for the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation," said The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage. "I invite citizens of Victoria to start planning their New Year's Eve festivities and to join the countless other Canadians to ring in what promises to be a memorable year."

Event planning is now underway for the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee and the City of Victoria to host a family-friendly, multicultural, live stage show, complete with food vendors and spectacular fireworks on the eve of Canada's 150th anniversary year. *Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night* will take place on Saturday, December 31, 2016 from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Victoria's Inner Harbour, the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees People.

Fireworks will be timed with those across the country, with large screens simulcasting Canada 150 First Night festivities, creating a true coast-to-coast celebration.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee to host the *Spirit 150 Victoria - First Night* celebration downtown and we're grateful to Canadian Heritage for funding," said Acting Mayor Pamela Madoff. "The City of Victoria has declared 2017 a 'Year of Reconciliation' and we look forward to working with the First Nations towards reconciliation as Canada marks its 150th."

To make *Spirit 150 Victoria – First Night* the best it can be, the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee and the City of Victoria will be reaching out to regional partners to invite their participation in and support of this important milestone in Canada’s history. The event line-up will be shared with the community in late November.

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