



## *Spirit of 150 Victoria* – 11 Days of Canada 150 Events at Victoria's Inner Harbour

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — To commemorate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>, *Spirit of 150 Victoria* presented by Coast Capital Savings is pleased to present 11 days of 100+ free performances on two stages from June 21 to July 1, 2017 at Victoria's Inner Harbour. Downtown Victoria will be the place to be to enjoy family-friendly activities, multicultural performances and local food vendors leading up to Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>, culminating with spectacular fireworks.

The City of Victoria in partnership with the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee is pleased to announce to have received \$400,000 from Canadian Heritage's [Canada 150 Fund](#) to host official Canada 150 events on Saturday, July 1. Combined with \$224,000 in funding provided for the *Spirit of 150 Victoria First Night* event on January 1, Canadian Heritage has contributed a total of \$624,000 to Victoria to mark Canada's sesquicentennial.

"In this momentous Canada 150 year, Canada Day celebrations will highlight what makes our country so unique, diverse and vibrant," said the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage. "I invite all people of Victoria to participate in the activities taking place in their community on July 1. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to celebrate this important milestone with your family, friends and neighbours."

With 2017 being a 'Year of Reconciliation' for the City of Victoria, its commitment to reconciliation is guiding its work to restore a balanced relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. *Spirit of 150 Victoria's* 11 days of programming will kick off with *National Aboriginal Day* on Wednesday, June 21 at Ship Point, and First Nations culture will be showcased on June 30 with the Esquimalt Singers and on July 1 with a First Nations blessing and performances by the Lekwungen Dancers on the Main Stage.

"What better way to mark this important milestone in Canada's history and acknowledge that Victoria is located on traditional Lekwungen territory, than leading with *National Aboriginal Day* celebrations at Victoria's Inner Harbour," said Mayor Lisa Helps.

Harbour Stage at Ship Point will play host to 11 days of dynamic, multicultural events and activities leading up to Canada Day. The all-ages venue will also feature local food vendors and craft beer and cider service, which will switch to a craft soda station on July 1.

*La Celebration de la Francophonie* will follow on Saturday, June 24 and *Canadian Multiculturalism Day* on Tuesday, June 27, with a range of cultural and musical-themed days in between and leading up to the long weekend. French programming is made possible due to the support of the Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French-Language Services.

Headlining this year's Main Stage on the Legislature Lawn will be Tegan and Sara on Friday, June 30 and the Arkells on Saturday, July 1. Additional performers will include The Funk Hunters, Delhi 2 Dublin, En Karma, Carmanah, De Temps Antan, Dirty Mountain, Stella Swanson and the Rosie Joyfuls, Valdy & The Salt Spring Children's Choir, and more!

The two-day Main Stage performances will take place from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Friday) and 3 p.m. - 10:15 p.m. (Saturday), culminating on Canada Day in a magnificent display of light and sound with fireworks above Victoria's Inner Harbour at 10:20 p.m. accompanied by music compiled by DJ Boitano.

This year, CIBC is the national presenting sponsor for activities on July 1. Canada Day programming highlights will include a fun Family Zone with an array of activities for children of all ages – with one or two treats for parents too. Returning to Belleville Street will be the Flavour of Canada international food village and sponsor activity tents.

The ever-popular Coast Capital Savings Living Flag will take place on the Legislature Lawn at 2 p.m. with 4,000 free red and white T-shirts available. This year, organizations are invited to pre-register their groups of 12 or more online to reserve free T-shirts for ease of pick up. Individuals will also be able to line-up for a free T-shirt. The goal is to attract a record-setting number of 5,000 Living Flag participants, making this year's photo one for the history books.

"We would like to thank Canadian Heritage, Coast Capital Savings, CIBC, and all of our sponsors for making *Spirit of 150 Victoria* possible," said Alan Lowe, Chair of the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee. "We invite Greater Victoria to join us for 11 days of free, family-friendly, multicultural outdoor programming and events at our beautiful Inner Harbour to make Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>."

The public can learn more about what's planned by visiting the event's interactive website, the one-stop resource for all Canada 150 events taking place in the Capital Region. In addition to event listings, the website features engaging content, including "Spotlighted Stories from Canadians." Visitors to the site are invited to share their story on what Canada means to them by way of an audio recording, video or text submission.

The website also features a full social media dashboard including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram feeds at a glance. For event updates, follow **@Spirit150Victoria** (Facebook, Instagram) and **@Spirit150Vic** (Twitter).

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. *Spirit of 150 Victoria* would not be possible without the generous support of its local and national sponsors.

A detailed event schedule will be shared with the community in early June. For more information, visit [Spirit150Victoria.ca](http://Spirit150Victoria.ca).

— 30 —

#### **For More Information:**

Mayor Lisa Helps  
City of Victoria  
250.661.2708

Alan Lowe  
Chair  
Greater Victoria Spirit Committee  
250.588.1883

Anna Gravelle  
Regional Communications Manager  
Western Region  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Government of Canada  
604.666.6504