

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed February 17, 2017

### Help us welcome Rogers Hometown Hockey to the Harbour City

#### Summary

In less than two weeks, Rogers Hometown Hockey will arrive in Nanaimo and we need your help giving them a warm welcome to the Harbour City! Ron MacLean and Tara Slone are travelling coast-to-coast, making 24 stops in various communities across Canada. Nanaimo is one of the lucky ones this year, getting the opportunity to celebrate our love of hockey with several events leading up to their visit.

**Paint the Town Red** - This tradition started last year as a way to welcome the tour to each host city. Decorate your store displays and front doors, put posters in your windows, hang Canada flags, put those red Christmas lights back up or whatever other fun ideas you come up with to welcome the tour. In honour of Paint the Town Red, the Italian fountain (in front of Port Place Mall) and the HBC Bastion will have red lights shining until the end of the month.

**Jersey Day** - Mayor McKay will sign a proclamation on February 17 declaring February 24 to be Jersey Day! Wear your team jersey to celebrate hockey in Canada while you participate in the many events happening in Nanaimo in celebration of the tour stop.

**Cheer Like Never Before Contest** - Upload a video of your hockey team's cheer to win big with Rogers Hometown Hockey. The top five teams with the most votes on the Hometown Hockey website will be invited to take part in the festivities when the tour visits Nanaimo. The winning team will be in the running to win the ultimate NHL experience including a playoff viewing party hosted by a surprise NHL Alumni.

Many groups have come together to offer a list of events happening throughout the city to celebrate Rogers Hometown Hockey, including an outdoor skating rink, zipline over Swy-A-Lana Lagoon, a ball hockey tournament downtown, and more. For a full list of events please visit the link below.

*Strategic Link:* Create an inclusive approach to culture through multi-cultural programs and capital projects

#### Key Points

- The Outdoor Skating rink opens Saturday, February 18 and will be open until February 26. Admission will be free for all ice users thanks to our many local sponsors. See the link to the schedule below.
- The zipline will open February 18, 19, 25, 26 from 10am - 5pm. Donations will be accepted by the local chapter of Kidsport February 18 & 19 and Loaves and Fishes Food Bank February 25 & 26.

#### Quotes

"I encourage Families, sports fans, kids of all ages to come downtown to join in the Hometown Hockey Festivities. There is fun for everyone and the Hometown Hockey Event provides two full day of Free activities. Skate for free outdoors, check out the cool displays, or even take a ride on a Zipline across the Lagoon! C'mon down and celebrate a fun day...everyone is welcome!"

Councillor Bill Bestwick  
Chair of Local Organizing Committee  
City of Nanaimo

## Quick Facts

- We encourage you to Paint the Town Red to welcome the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour
- The outdoor rink at Maffeo Sutton Park opens Saturday, February 18
- Wear your favourite hockey jersey in celebration of Rogers Hometown Hockey on Friday, February 24
- The Rogers Hometown Hockey festival will take place at Maffeo Sutton Park on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26

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