



## **MEDIA BACKGROUNDER**

### **PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

**Vancouver, B.C. – May 20, 2009:** Located on the east side of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a 99-year-old organization which has established itself as one of the jewels in the City of Vancouver's tourism crown. On this historic 114-acre site the PNE provides a host of products and services ranging from Playland Amusement Park, trade shows, film production, concert venues and cultural and community events, to the beloved annual 17 day Fair at the PNE, an end of summer tradition for generations of British Columbians.

Although the PNE has continued to evolve, championing innovative entertainment programming, it has maintained its nearly century old link to British Columbia's history and tradition. The organization remains committed to a mandate of showcasing the people and culture of Vancouver to the world - and to bringing the entertainment and cultural events of the world to the people of Vancouver.

The PNE was a provincial government entity, a crown corporation for much of its existence. From the first Fair in 1910, until the Province of British Columbia enacted the Pacific National Exhibition Enabling Act on January 1, 2004, the PNE has had many different management and Board of Directors structures. From its transition to an arms-length organization operated by the City of Vancouver, the PNE has an interim four-member Board of Directors made up of four senior staff members from the City of Vancouver and a five-member interim community advisory committee.

#### PNE Fast Facts:

- The organization operates four distinct activity streams: the Fair at the PNE, Playland Amusement Park, year-round facility rentals and operations of the public urban park.
- The organization also maintains the 114-acre park site as well as maintains and upkeep the buildings at Hastings Park (the Pacific Coliseum, Rollerland, the Garden Auditorium, the Livestock Buildings and the Forum).
- The PNE employs 140 full-time staff and up to 4,000 direct part-time and seasonal employees.
- The PNE is home to over 1,800 event days annually, including sporting and cultural events, community, concerts, trade and consumer shows and festivals.

- Each year, over two million people visit the many activities and events happening at Hastings Park, making it one of the most dynamic and successful venues of its kind in North America.
- The Pacific Coliseum is the host venue for figure skating and short track speed skating for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.
- The annual Fair at the PNE, which will celebrate its centennial in 2010, is the largest and best attended ticketed event in British Columbia.

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Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four activity streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hastings Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

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