

MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release
May 26, 2017

Vancouver, B.C.: After recent reports that the organizers of the 4/20 event in Vancouver are interested in moving the event to Hastings Park, it is important that the operators of the site, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE), clarify the challenges of entering a rental agreement with the 4/20 event.

As one of the busiest event sites in Canada, hosting upwards of 1,600 event days annually, the PNE has a number of criteria for every potential event organizer that must be met prior to securing space.

- 1) **The building or space must be available.** Currently, for the event day in question the PNE has bookings in: the Pacific Coliseum for a family trade and consumer show; the Garden Auditorium for Circus West children's gymnastics school; the Forum building for a trade and consumer show, and the Rollerland Building and several outside areas for the movie industry. Associated parking lots are also booked for those events.
- 2) **Liability and insurance.** Every event organizer must be able to secure insurance and liability coverage for their event to ensure that customers, organizers, landlords, and taxpayers are appropriately protected in the event of injury, sickness or damage claims.
- 3) **Worker's Compensation Board (WCB).** The PNE requires that all events meet WCB requirements for workers in British Columbia, including the right to not be exposed to second hand smoke. It is also important to note that all events at the PNE are non-smoking, except for small designated smoking areas that meet WCB and City requirements related to second hand smoke.
- 4) **Union site.** The PNE has a number of unions that operate on our site, and the unionized workers have the legal right to work those events. Event organizers are obligated to cover the cost of employing those workers.
- 5) **Expenses related to the event.** All events at the PNE pay for or guarantee through the posting of deposits, the payment of subcontractors

or suppliers for items such as acceptable levels of policing, additional security, medical facilities, site fencing, additional washroom facilities (if required), among others. Those deposits are based on estimates and are paid in advance of the event and reconciled post event so that taxpayers are not asked to subsidize events on the site. It is important to note that if there is damage to the site, the event organizer is expected to pay for 100% of the remediation of those costs. Potential damage that cannot be repaired within days would prevent an event from being booked as it would negatively impact events occurring in the days after the event. The PNE will take deposits against those costs in advance of the event if they are anticipated to be incurred.

- 6) **Proximity to residential area.** The PNE is in continuous dialogue with the neighbourhood where we have resided for the past 107 years. Aside from ongoing one-on-one dialogue with neighbours, we have two formal community consultation groups as well as regular contact with community organizations within the neighbourhood. When speculation about this event moving to the PNE became public, we received significant contact from the community, plus formal contact from the two community organizations and 100% of the feedback was asking the PNE not to rent the site to this event.

The PNE met with organizers from the 4/20 event in November, 2016 about the scheduled event in April, 2017. During this meeting and subsequent conversations, the PNE outlined the six points stated above and after reviewing the operational and business plans of the event, the PNE declined to pursue booking this event. Assuming the above mentioned challenges do not materially change, the PNE does not expect that decision to change in the future.

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About the PNE:

Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit 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 15-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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