



## **March 26, 2020 - Update from the PNE Chief Executive Officer**

These are extraordinary times. So much has changed here at the PNE, in our city and around the world in such a short amount of time. On behalf of everyone within our organization, I hope that each of you and your loved ones are safe.

I'd like to thank all of you who have reached out from all corners of the Province (neighbours, guests, community, industry and public officials) to ask about our plans for both Playland and the PNE Fair, and to share your recognition of the important role the PNE plays in bringing people together to celebrate through culture, sports, music and recreation, and how the PNE is a part of your collective memory and hope for a positive future.

The PNE is an iconic, 110 year old not-for-profit organization and all our events and community programs are funded by the revenues we generate each season through Playland, the PNE Fair and year round events. Since we do not receive operational funding from government, we are actively mitigating our revenue losses and preparing to ensure we can get back to business as soon as the COVID-19 emergency is behind us.

Secondly, I'd like to thank our PNE management team, our fulltime staff, 1000's of event workers and corporate partners for their team spirit and being so incredibly supportive during this challenging time.

This is what we are doing today to make sure we help flatten the curve and are ready to be industry leaders when it is safe for people to gather again and enjoy regular activities.

1. We remain steadfast in our commitment to following all civic, provincial and federal health recommendations, restricting all gatherings of 50 people or more at Hastings Park and encouraging two metre social distancing for anyone on site for any reason.
2. Currently, with approval from Vancouver Coastal Health and CDC, the Farmers Markets will continue at Hastings Park each Sunday to ensure access to critical local food sources, but the markets will have strict limits on numbers of people allowed at any one time and strict social distancing procedures in place.
3. We are now planning for a July 1<sup>st</sup> opening to Playland and will continue to adjust our timelines as the situation evolves.
4. We continue to plan for the August 22 opening of the PNE Fair.
5. We have increased site wide security to ensure safety of people and spaces while there is limited activity on site
6. When the City of Vancouver announced the March 22 closure of recreational facilities such as outdoor courts and skate parks to ensure social distancing was being practiced, we ensured the same at Hastings Park.
7. For any cancelled or postponed events on site, our ticketing team continues to reach out to ticketholders and provide options around postponed dates and refunds.

Because the PNE is funded by our own event revenues, our organization, along with many other event and tourism organizations locally have had to make very difficult decisions to ensure we can survive during this period of no revenue, and remain stable enough to ensure this 110 year old organization gets back up and running when this emergency is over.

We will do everything we can to answer your questions and have information available on our website and social media channels. We remain committed to the safety of our staff, guests and partners as well as open, timely communication with these parties and we ask all staff, guests and partners to follow all recommendations of Health Authorities. We remain actively engaged in helping to slow the spread of this virus in our communities and appreciate your ongoing support of the PNE as we collectively navigate through this.

Mostly, when the time is right, we look forward to being a place where our greater community can once again gather together, celebrate and build new memories.

With thanks,



**Shelley Frost** | President and CEO  
**PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

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