

AFTER DECADES IN THE DARK THE PACIFIC COLISEUM WILL NOW “LIGHT UP” FOR MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CANADIAN CULTURAL MOMENTS

For Immediate Release
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Vancouver, BC: The Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is thrilled to announce that the Pacific Coliseum will now have the ability to “light up” to honour major community events, Canadian cultural moments, charities, and special causes.

Since opening in January 1968, the Pacific Coliseum has been known as the beloved “Rink on Renfrew” for generations of British Columbians, but the building has never had modern exterior lighting to allow the PNE to properly ‘light up’ the venue to honour special causes. In 2022 the PNE site has received a \$2.6 million site-wide lighting upgrade as a result of funding received under the Government of Canada’s Major Fairs and Festivals grant program. This allowed all PNE buildings (including nine buildings totalling over 600,000 square feet) to undergo an extensive LED lighting upgrade. The upgrade means that the not-for-profit PNE organization will realize hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual electricity savings. At the same time the PNE also installed a fully programmable DMX exterior lighting system on the Pacific Coliseum, giving it the ability to light up 108 exterior panels in colour, making it possible for the 55-year-old building to celebrate major events and causes in colour!

“The PNE is very grateful for the federal funding from the Major Fairs and Festivals grant to make this site-wide energy-saving initiative a reality,” says PNE President and CEO Shelley Frost. *“The combination of the large number of buildings on our site, and the fact that some of these buildings are important civic heritage and cultural structures, all generate significant monthly electric bills. This upgrade will result in the PNE realizing savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually – money that can now be spent to support our 113-year-old organization or be reinvested into community initiatives.”*

PNE ISSUES A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO ‘LIGHT UP’ THE PACIFIC COLISEUM!

Beginning today, the Pacific National Exhibition is accepting submissions to light up the 108 exterior lighting panels on the Pacific Coliseum to raise awareness of events, charitable causes and cultural moments. The colour combinations in the state-of-the-art DMX system are virtually endless, giving the PNE the ability to acknowledge or celebrate a wide variety of events or moments. With this light up program the Pacific Coliseum will be lit up from sunset to 11pm.

“As a community partner, the PNE will light up the Pacific Coliseum on specific days of the year to celebrate community, offer support to other not-for-profit and charitable organizations and to recognize important events and cultural occurrences,” says PNE Board Chair Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung.

Submissions can be made at by community-based organizations and causes that are important to British Columbia at least 30 days in advance to: www.pne.ca/light-up-the-pacific-coliseum/

The PNE has selected June 21, 2023 as the first light up event, with the Pacific Coliseum featuring the colour orange to honour National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada.

For more information on the PNE visit: www.PNE.ca.

About the PNE:

Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit organization dedicated to delivering over 3 million visitors a year with memorable experiences through access to first-class cultural, music, sporting and family entertainment events, as well as access to public space for passive recreation. Founded in 1910, the PNE's home is Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization manages four activity streams: the annual PNE Fair, Playland Amusement Park, Park Care and Facility Maintenance and an expansive portfolio of year-round events. All revenues generated are invested back into park space, community programs and non-revenue generating educational and entertainment experiences.

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