



March 31, 2017

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Aboriginal Day Live - Special Event

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Vancouver Park Board approve an application from Aboriginal Day Live 2017 Inc. to host APTN Aboriginal Day Live at the Northeast Field in John Hendry Park on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, from 9:00am to 10:00pm, with set-up and tear down to occur between Sunday, June 18, 2017 and Thursday, June 22, 2017, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

## POLICY

Park Board approval is required for special events not included in the annual Calendar of Major Special Events and/or that are in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws.

## BACKGROUND

National Aboriginal Day, which is celebrated annually on June 21, was officially designated in 1996 by the Canadian Government to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, cultural diversity, and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Every year in June, during the summer solstice, Aboriginal people across Canada come together to celebrate their unique and diverse cultures through music, dance, comedy, visual arts, and many other forms of cultural and artistic expression.

In Vancouver, the annual National Aboriginal Day event is held at John Hendry Park and is organized by the National Aboriginal Day Organizing Committee (NADOC). This Committee is comprised of community members from a diverse range of organizations, including the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society, Broadway Youth Resources Centre, Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society, Aboriginal Sport, Recreation & Physical Activity Partners Council, Helping Spirit Lodge Society, and Trout Lake Community Centre. This recurring event takes place on the west side of John Hendry Park every June 21, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

Established in 2007, Aboriginal Day Live is an annual celebration of National Aboriginal Day, produced by the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). APTN is a Canadian broadcast network established in 1992, and broadcasting nationally since 1999. The network airs and produces programs made by, for, and about Aboriginal peoples in Canada and the United States. Based in Winnipeg, it is the first network by and for Aboriginal peoples. In 2017, APTN is planning a 6-hour live national broadcast from Aboriginal Day Live events in 8 major Canadian cities - Halifax, Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Yellowknife, Toronto, and Vancouver. APTN's Aboriginal Day Live initiatives are funded in large part by the Department of Canadian Heritage's Canada 150 Fund and will be produced by Winnipeg-based Les Productions Rivard. In Vancouver, APTN is seeking permission to host its Aboriginal Day Live event on the Northeast Field in John Hendry Park, in order to co-locate and complement NADOC's existing National Aboriginal Day activities on the west side of John Hendry Park. The Aboriginal Day Live event would take place

on June 21, 2017, from 9:00am to 10:00pm, and feature accomplished Aboriginal musicians, including award-winning and up-and-coming artists.

## **DISCUSSION**

NADOC and APTN will work collaboratively to deliver a free, inclusive and family-oriented event for Vancouverites of all nations and backgrounds at John Hendry Park on June 21 (Appendix A). This larger and more robust 2017 program is expected to increase event attendance significantly (from 1,000 people, up to as high as 15,000 people over the course of the day). In order to deliver the Aboriginal Day Live portion of the event, APTN will begin setting up on the Northeast Field on Sunday, June 18 and finish on June 20. Setup for the event will begin at 8:00am and end at 8:00pm daily. Overnight security will be provided. Event infrastructure will include a portable stage, green room tent, production vehicles and trailers, camera towers, and a front of house structure (Appendix B). Tear down will be completed on June 22.

On the June 21 event day, at daybreak, there will be an invitation for a sacred fire to be lit at all Aboriginal Day Live locations, including Vancouver. This fire will be kept burning for the duration of the gathering by the Firekeeper. The fire acts as a beacon for the spirits and provides a place for making offerings and quiet reflection. The location of the fire and the vessel has been approved by Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services.

Park Board Special Events and Operations staff have participated in several site and planning meetings with the producers to inform the preparation of required communication, safety, traffic, emergency response, ingress/egress, and green management plans. Going forward, Park Board staff will be working with NADOC and Trout Lake Community Centre staff to ensure effective neighborhood notification and impact mitigation (some impacts to the neighbourhood are anticipated, particularly those areas in closer proximity to the Northeast Field).

This application has been reviewed and conditionally approved by the FEST Committee, including the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, the City of Vancouver's Special Events and Traffic Management Departments, and the Park Board's Special Events Office, subject to Park Board approval and final event plans.

## **SUMMARY**

NADOC's annual National Aboriginal Day initiatives at John Hendry Park have played an important role in recognizing and celebrating the uniqueness and diversity of Aboriginal culture in Vancouver. The addition of APTN's Aboriginal Day Live event will add to the size and importance of Vancouver's National Aboriginal Day celebrations, and enhance civic vibrancy in a lesser-used area of the city. Park Board staff have carefully considered the many aspects of this application with the event organizers and key stakeholders, and are confident that this initiative can be executed successfully. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the application from APTN as outlined above.

General Manager's Office  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
Vancouver, BC

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Aboriginal Day Live - Preliminary Program

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## Vancouver

### Aboriginal Day Live (ADL) – Canada 150 – Pacific Time (PT) Tentative Production and Festival Schedule

**Time (Sunrise)** - Sacred Fire – Trout Lake - APTN

**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** - Offsite Community Partners - Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society (VAFCS) and National Aboriginal Day Organizing Committee (NADOC)

- Territorial Welcome & Opening Remarks
- Cultural Performances & Entertainers
- Friendship Walk to Trout Lake

**10:00 am – 10:30 am** – Round Dance – Trout Lake – APTN main stage

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm** – Youth Entertainers & Story Tellers – Trout Lake – APTN main stage

**12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** - Onsite Community Partner Activities - Trout Lake

- Territorial Welcome, Cultural Performances and Entertainers – NADOC Stage
- Free Community Lunch Service – NADOC and APTN (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)
- Britannia Community Services Centre Activities – NADOC
  - Partnership link for day activities and resource for school field trip programming
- Craft Making (Cedar Roses – TBC) - NADOC
- Face Painting - NADOC
- Canoe on the Water - NADOC
- Tipi Village, Storytelling and Colouring - NADOC and Vancouver Public Library (TBC)
- Youth Activities – NADOC and Urban Native Youth Association (TBC)
- Vendors, Community Resources – NADOC
- Photo Booth Hashtag Campaign – NADOC
- Info Booth Onsite All Day/Evening – NADOC & APTN

**6:30 pm – 10:00 pm** - ADL - Music and Cultural Concert - Trout Lake – APTN Main Stage

**6:00 pm – 7:15 pm** – Pre-Show (non-broadcast show, only webcast)

**7:15 pm – 8:00 pm** – ADL programming from other stages on Jumbo Screens

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm** – Live APTN TV Show

Aboriginal Day Live - Preliminary Site Plan

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