



Festival Of Lights at VanDusen Botanical Gardens & Make-A-Wish Foundation Partnership

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, April 16, 2018

Make-A-Wish[®]
BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON CANADA



Presentation Purpose/Objective

- Presentation provided for information purposes
- Update Board on the partnership between VanDusen Festival of Lights and the Make-A-Wish Foundation (MAW)
- Provide opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback



Festival of Lights Overview

- Festival of Lights (FOL) is Vancouver's longest running and premier holiday event
- Welcomed a record 146,000 visitors in 2017
- Last year's event marked:
 - 33rd year of the festival; and
 - 17th year of the charitable partnership with MAW



Make-A-Wish Overview

- MAW was established in 1980 in Arizona
- MAW mission is to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses
- First international chapter was established in British Columbia in 1983
- Wishes granted for kids aged 3 to 17
- 2018 goal is to grant 150 wishes



130 wishes granted

From our territory: 110 Wish Assistants: 20



We celebrated our **2000th** wish!



\$12,000 = average cost of a wish

(7K Cash + 5K In-Kind)



54 BC & YK Communities Reached

Including: Creston, Dawson Ck, Fernie, Fort St. John, Kitwanga, McLeese Lake, Nelson, Prince Rupert, Sidney, Sooke, Terrace, Tsay Keh Dene, Vernon, Whitehorse

Key Partnership Elements

- MAW child is selected annually to participate in the Festival's 'Flick the Switch' ceremony
 - Launches the show publicly
 - Celebrates FOL & MAW partnership
- MAW volunteers sell glow stars in the atrium at VanDusen
- Candle Grotto is set up for visitors to provide a donation, light a candle, and make a wish
- MAW volunteers invest roughly 1,300 hours during the event



Partnership Contributions

- MAW partnership raised \$9,500 in its first year (2001)
- Contributions grew to \$58,000 in 2017; granted the wishes to 5 kids living with critical illnesses
- Cumulatively, the FOL & MAW partnership has raised over \$475,000 since inception
- FOL is one of MAW's signature fundraising events during the year



"I wish to meet Bo Horvat of the Vancouver Canucks"

The logo for VanDusen Botanical Garden, featuring a stylized leaf design to the left of the text "VanDusen BOTANICAL GARDEN".

Festival of Lights

Behind the Scenes



Thanks from the Make-A-Wish Foundation



0:00 / 3:01

[Video Link](#)





Questions & Answers