**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 44th Annual Port Moody Golden Spike Days Festival Cancelled**

For Immediate Release

March 23, 2020

After careful consideration and in light of the latest information on the virus from federal and provincial health agencies, the Golden Spike Days Society has decided to cancel the 2020 Golden Spike Days Festival.

The Festival, which draws more than 40,000 people each year was scheduled to take place June 27, June 28, June 30 and July 1 2020 at Rocky Point Park in Port Moody.

The health and safety of the festival attendees, volunteers, vendors and suppliers is of paramount importance to us, and at this time, several provincial and federal health agencies have recommended cancelling large gatherings.

Although the Federal Ministry of Health continues to assess the health risk to Canadians as low in regard to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) the Society feels that is in the best interest of our community to cancel the event.

“This decision was not an easy one," said Ken Nielsen, President of the Golden Spike Days Festival Society. "We are grateful to all of our volunteers, sponsors, suppliers and of course the general public for your understanding and support around this decision.”

“Given the fact that the planning of the Festival is done exclusively by volunteers, it is difficult to adequately plan for the event given the short time period that could be remaining. In fairness, we also need to give as much notice as possible to our suppliers and vendors to make other plans” said Nielsen.

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