

## City supports special needs hockey group, Penticton Upper Dek Vees

(Penticton, BC – February 3, 2020) – The City of Penticton, in partnership with DekSmart Ltd. and numerous corporate sponsors within the South Okanagan Valley, continue to co-sponsor the special needs hockey program, Penticton Upper Dek Vees.

“We have participants that spent months just walking on their skates around the edges of the arena and now they can skate,” said Penticton Upper Dek Vees Head Coach, Jeremy Sirakov. “You get to see that passion because every time they carry the puck in and score, it’s almost like it’s their first time. You have to love the program because you get to see that happen.”

The hockey program officially came together in 2008 by a group of volunteer coaches to offer the special needs community in Penticton an opportunity to play hockey for all ages. The Upper Dek Vees now have a junior program and a senior program comprising of almost 50 players.

“We are excited to be involved with the Penticton Upper Dek Vees and support its initiatives of providing a safe, fun and supportive environment for its participants,” says Recreation Coordinator – Events, Lisa O’Daly. “We are delighted to continue supporting this program for our community.”

Residents can see this hockey group in action at an upcoming fundraiser game against our local RCMP. The “No Love Lost” game will be held February 16 at 7:00pm at the Okanagan Hockey School rink. Admission is by donation and all funds collected will be donated to the Alzheimer’s Association and special needs hockey.

Anyone interested in learning more about this hockey program can visit [www.upperdekvees.ca](http://www.upperdekvees.ca).

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### Contacts:

Lisa O’Daly  
Recreation Coordinator - Events  
City of Penticton  
250-490-2437

Jeremy Sirakov  
Head Coach  
Penticton Upper Dek Vees  
250-809-5388