News Release

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City of Penticton hosts Virtual Canada Day

(Penticton, BC – June 1, 2020) – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Penticton's annual Canada Day celebrations are moving online.

"Canada Day is an excellent opportunity to celebrate our country, our community, and each other," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. "While we may not be able to gather together in person, we look forward to celebrating together virtually."

Along with the traditional Canada Day protocol, the virtual Canada Day program will feature local children's entertainers, popular musicians, and fun video submissions from across the region. Headliners include music duo 'Aidan and Mandy,' musician Beamer Wigley, magician Leif David, and dance and fitness instructor Ashley Dias. The show is expected to last 90 minutes. The City is partnering with the South Okanagan Event Centre and the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to present this event, which is supported by Heritage Canada.

"Residents can expect a high-energy, entertaining show featuring some of your favourite local performers and musicians," said Sport and Event Project Manager, Carly Lewis. "Be prepared to move your body and sing along as we celebrate the best of our community!"

The City is asking residents to contribute to the event by submitting a self-recorded video of you and your family singing our national anthem. The video will be incorporated into a Community Song Project, to be revealed on the virtual Canada Day show. If you'd like to showcase your Canadian pride and be featured in the project, you can submit your one minute video at penticton.ca/virtualcanadaday. Please make sure the video is filmed in landscape format if possible.

The event will be broadcast at 12PM PST on July 1st, via a Facebook Live event on the City's Facebook page, @cityofpenticton. The link for the event will also be posted on the City's website homepage.

Canada Day celebrations in Penticton typically draw large crowds of thousands of people. The Government of British Columbia's Restart Plan has restricted mass gatherings and events over 50 people until one of the following conditions are met: wide vaccination, community immunity, or broad successful treatments.

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