

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** September 6, 2022

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Andy Beesley, Director of Recreation & Events

**SUBJECT:** Celebrate Reopening Fund for CN Centre Event

**ATTACHMENT(S):** NONE

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated September 6, 2022, from the Director of Recreation and Events titled “Celebrate Reopening Fund for CN Centre Event”.

**PURPOSE:**

This information report provides Council with details on a special event being held at the CN Centre called “Prince George Celebrates our Frontline Workers”. This event is entirely funded through the federal government’s Canadian Heritage Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund.

**BACKGROUND:**

The federal government announced a special initiative and funding to help communities build a sense of pride and belonging to Canada, by holding celebratory and commemorative activities that recognize people and achievements in the response to COVID-19. Eligible projects had to be free of charge, open to the general public, support the revival of local economies after the hardship of the pandemic, and commemorate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada by specifically honouring first responders, front-line workers, and communities. Administration applied to be considered for this program with the intention of holding a community wide event at the CN Centre, and the City has received approval and funding for an event, as described below:

- The “PG Celebrates our Frontline Workers” event will be on Saturday October 22, 2022.
- This is a FREE event with a large block of tickets being offered and distributed to health care providers, first responders, front line workers, teachers and other groups, as a way to recognize and express thanks and support for their efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- All remaining tickets will be available to the general public and are also free. These will be on a “first-come, first-served” basis starting Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the TicketsNorth box office online and in the CN Centre. There are a maximum of 4 tickets per person.
- This all ages event includes free hotdogs, popcorn, and soda pop for everyone.
- Beverages from local breweries and wineries will be available for purchase.
- Entertainment will be provided by DJ’s and headlined by Calgary’s The Dueling Piano Kings. As seen at massive Grey cup parties and many other events, the Dueling Piano Kings will transform the CN Centre into a giant feel-good party, complete with song requests, singing and dancing.

This event will provide opportunities to give special recognition and thanks to the first line responders, as well as to give our whole community an opportunity to be with friends, to get together, to share an experience, and to give hope and last but not least, to have a lot of fun. It will also economically support local supply and services companies.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This event supports Council's focus areas of re-opening civic facilities and resurrecting the City's capacity to host concerts and other entertainment; a diversified and vibrant economy, supporting COVID-19 response, recovery, and resilience projects that support businesses through the pandemic, and maximizing the quality of life for all residents.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The \$118,000 budget for this event includes all costs associated with hosting the event in the CN Centre, including marketing, rental and equipment fees, staffing, security, entertainment, free food & beverages, and everything else required to put on this event. This budget is 100% paid for through the federal government's Canadian Heritage Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

With thanks to the Canadian Heritage Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund, we are excited to hold this free event for our community, to help celebrate the many contributions of frontline workers and the people of Prince George who have all experienced the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Andy Beesley, Director Recreation & Events

**PREPARED BY:** Glen Mikkelsen, Manager of Entertainment

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2022/09/21