



NOTICE OF MOTION

Date: April 20th, 2025

To: Mayor and Council

From: Councillor Kyle Sampson & Councillor Brian Skakun

Subject: CN Centre 30th Anniversary Community Celebration

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to return a report to Council by June 23rd that outlines a plan to deliver a fun, financially accessible, safe, and community-oriented public event as part of the CN Centre's 30th Anniversary celebration, to be hosted around September 30th, 2025.
2. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to explore partnerships or potential funding opportunities in support of the celebration.
3. That Council **EXPRESSES** its intent to consider funding this celebration through Council Contingency, contingent upon the proposed plan outlined in the report demonstrating widespread accessibility, strong community impact, and sound budget justification.

DISCUSSION:

Three decades. Millions through the doors. Countless memories.

Most people in Prince George and across Northern BC have at least one memory from the CN Centre. Whether it's a concert, a hockey game, a tradeshow, a festival, a graduation, or otherwise. This motion is about making sure the entire community gets to be part of its 30th birthday.

We know staff are already well underway planning a series of events to mark the anniversary. From key concerts to Cougars-focused activations, to other venue celebrations throughout September. What we're doing with this motion is adding direction and support from Council to ensure that there is also a public-facing, community celebration that's fun, inclusive, accessible, and affordable... something the public can take part in and enjoy, and likely modest in cost. The event is not intended to be overly grand or large in scale, but something that allows for meaningful and enjoyable community participation.

Whether it's an open house with a public skate, food, music, and activities, a throwback showcase concert, or a localized celebration that fits the venue, the intent of the motion is to create a moment that brings people together to celebrate the CN Centre's role in shaping Prince George's culture, economy, and sense of pride.

Since opening as the Prince George Multiplex on September 30, 1995, and especially since being renamed the CN Centre in 2005, the facility has welcomed well, well over a million guests. It's been the

stage for Prince George Cougars hockey, the Canada Winter Games, Cirque du Soleil, Monster Trucks, and concerts by legends like Elton John, KISS, Shania Twain, Bryan Adams, The Tragically Hip, Nickelback, ZZ Top, Bob Dylan, Avril Lavigne, and so many more. It has hosted major comedians like Jerry Seinfeld, Russell Peters, and Jimmy Carr, family shows like The Wiggles, large tradeshow, conventions, healthcare symposiums, graduations, and even 'unique' events like the Battle of the Hockey Enforcers, aka: The Hockey Fights.

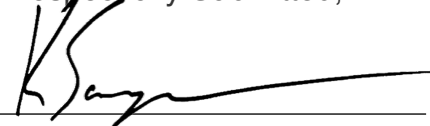
This motion also recommends that staff explore potential partnership and funding opportunities to help support the celebration, potentially including, but not limited to our longtime partners at CN Rail. This isn't just the 30th anniversary of the facility's opening, it also marks 20 years since the CN naming partnership began, which was recently renewed through to at least 2030. That kind of partnership reflects more than branding, it represents shared investment in a facility that serves the entire northern region. And of course, it inspired one of the CN Centre's most beloved features: the "Trainbonis"!

While the public celebration is the main focus, there is also an opportunity to recognize some of the people who helped shape the CN Centre's legacy, including the Mayor, Council, and building committee who led the original project in the '90s, the building management and operations teams past and present, the contractors who help bring events to life, and community contributors like photographers Jim VanderPloeg, Brent Braaten, and James Doyle, whose work lines the concourse.

We're asking staff to return a report with celebration options, budget implications, and a proposed plan, and making it clear that Council is open to supporting this through Council Contingency, provided the plan aligns with the intent of being truly community-facing, meaningful, and accessible. This is about celebrating the milestone anniversary of this flagship municipal facility as a community.

It is intended that this motion be considered by Council at the May 26th Regular Council Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Kyle Sampson



Councillor Brian Skakun