

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2018

## **In the Wake of MMIWG Inquiry Hearings, Traditional Mother's Day Pow Wow Returns to East Vancouver After 10 Year Absence**

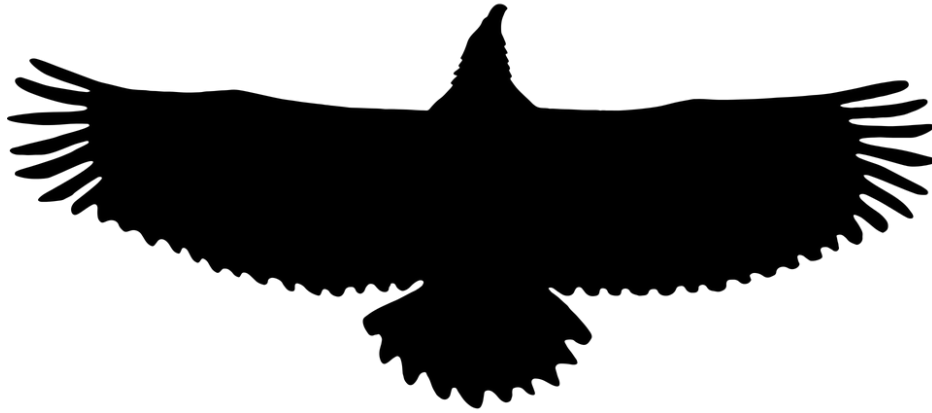
*Vancouver, British Columbia – April 30, 2018* – Launched in 1984, the East Vancouver Mother's Day Pow Wow was a fixture in Vancouver's urban Indigenous community for 24 years. Run with support from community volunteers, the Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House, and the City of Vancouver, the event grew from small family night gatherings to a three day event attended by thousands. Although the event was of particular importance to people from the urban Indigenous community in Vancouver, it also drew crowds from across the province and across the country.

The last Mother's Day Pow Wow was held in 2008. This was due to a number of factors including the closure of Trout Lake Community Centre for renovations. Although closed for some 10 years, the event lives on in the memories of urban Indigenous community members.

In 2018 a committee of volunteers from the Indigenous community has come together to bring back the traditional Mother's Day Pow Wow and secure its legacy into the future. The event seeks to honour and uplift women and lifegivers in the community, and provide an opportunity for urban Indigenous people to come gather in celebration their cultures and their communities. As many of the committee members have also been involved in the recent Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry Hearings in Vancouver, the committee also recognizes the particular importance of hosting this event to honour women at this time. There is a strong Indigenous tradition of respecting and celebrating women that needs to be highlighted and shared. The committee intends to host a Red Dress Jingle Special in honour of the women and families affected by the MMIWG crisis.

The Committee is pleased to announce that the Mothers Day Pow Wow will return to East Vancouver on May 13th, 2018. The event will be held at Britannia Community Services Centre in Gym A/B (located in Britannia High School). The Pow Wow runs from 12pm (grand entry) to 9pm. Registration for drums and dancers begins at 11am. A feast will be held at 5pm. All are welcome to this family friendly event.

For more information please contact Juanita Desjarlais,  
Pow Wow Committee Chair  
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# MOTHER'S DAY TRADITIONAL POW WOW 2018

## UNCEDED COAST SALISH TERRITORIES

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May 13, 2018 | Britannia Centre Gym A/B | 1661 Napier St. Vancouver

Head Lady- Adele Waskewitch  
Head Man- Irvin Waskewitch  
Pipe Carriers- Harriett Prince, Sam George  
Elders- Ta'ah George, Shane Pointe  
Emcee- Ray Thunderchild  
Arena Director- Lawrence Trottier  
Head Youths- Annahee and Zach McKenna

### **Schedule**

9am- Pipe Ceremony  
11am- Building opens for registration  
12pm- Grand Entry  
1pm- Intertribals  
2pm- Categories (Tiny Tots, Junior, Teen, Golden Age)  
3pm- Honouring of Women  
5pm- Feast  
6pm- Adult Categories  
7pm- Red Dress Jingle Special  
7:30pm- Resume Categories and Intertribals  
8:30pm- Retirement of Flags, Giveaways  
9pm- Close