



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CANUCKS AUTISM NETWORK PRO-AM TOURNAMENT TO BRING
'BEST OF BC' NHL ALUMNI TO VANCOUVER**



VANCOUVER, BC – The inaugural Canucks Autism Network (CAN) Pro-Am Hockey Tournament is set to take place from January 25th to January 27th, 2019, at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre at UBC and Rogers Arena. In partnership with the NHL Alumni Association and Vancouver Canucks Alumni Association, the tournament brings former NHL players and amateur players together to raise vital funding for CAN.

Themed as the “Best of BC”, this tournament features a uniquely local spin on the pro-am format. Each team will be joined by a member of the NHL Alumni that either was born in BC or has competed for the Vancouver Canucks. As 2019 also celebrates the 100-year anniversary of hockey in BC, this event is of particular significance to the province’s hockey community.

To participate, teams must raise a minimum of \$25,000. The total amount raised by each team will determine their draft ranking to select an NHL Alumni. In addition to tournament play, the weekend will also feature a draft event at the Imperial Vancouver where participants will interact with and hear stories from featured NHL Alumni.



Funds raised from the 2019 CAN Pro-Am Hockey Tournament will support CAN's sports and recreation programs across BC, allowing children, youth and young adults with autism to learn new skills, make new friends and realize limitless possibilities. With an estimated 1 in 66 children diagnosed, there are over 16,000 children and youth with autism in BC alone.

"The CAN Pro-Am Hockey Tournament represents a unique and valuable opportunity," said Paolo Aquilini, Vancouver Canucks Co-owner and Canucks Autism Network Co-founder. "While tournament participants spend the weekend making lifelong memories, funds raised will help ensure that children, youth and young adults with autism province-wide will also have the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of sports."

"We are very proud and pleased to announce the upcoming CAN Pro-Am," said Glenn Healy, Executive Director of the NHL Alumni Association. "We know there is a strong community support in Vancouver and we look forward to making this an annual success."

"The Vancouver Canucks Alumni Association is proud to be part of this wonderful fundraising initiative that supports one of our key beneficiaries," said Bob Murray, President of the Vancouver Canucks Alumni Association. "Having a Pro-Am with NHL Alumni in Vancouver is a huge plus for the game of hockey and to the families who benefit from Canucks Autism Network programs throughout BC."

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ABOUT CANUCKS AUTISM NETWORK (CAN)

Founded by Vancouver Canucks Co-owners Paolo and Clara Aquilini in 2008, Canucks Autism Network (CAN) is dedicated to providing sports and recreation programs to individuals and families living with autism, while raising awareness and providing training in communities across British Columbia.

For more information, please visit canucksautism.ca.

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