



Chris Higgins

Jyrki Lumme

## CAN PRO-AM TOURNAMENT WILL BRING ‘BEST OF BC’ NHL ALUMNI TO VANCOUVER

**VANCOUVER, BC** – The inaugural Canucks Autism Network (CAN) Pro-Am Hockey Tournament, presented by Modern Green Canada, is set to take place from January 25 to January 27, 2019, at the UBC Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre and Rogers Arena, home of the Vancouver Canucks. In partnership with the NHL Alumni Association and Vancouver Canucks Alumni Association, the tournament will bring together former NHL greats with amateur players in support of CAN and families living with autism in British Columbia.

Themed as the “Best of BC”, the tournament will feature a uniquely local spin on the classic pro-am format, as each team will include a member of the NHL Alumni who was either born in BC or has competed for the Vancouver Canucks.

To participate, teams must raise a minimum of \$25,000. With draft night taking place at The Imperial in Vancouver, teams will have the opportunity to select NHL Alumni in the order of their fundraising ranking.

The following NHL Alumni will be draft-eligible, with additional NHL Alumni to be announced soon.

- **Greg Adams**
- **Dave Babych**
- **Garth Butcher**
- **Geoff Courtnall**
- **Thomas Gradin**
- **Chris Higgins**
- **Jyrki Lumme**
- **Kirk McLean**
- **Dana Murzyn**
- **Cliff Ronning**
- **Kyle Wellwood**

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

The weekend will also feature a Hot Stove Lounge and Luncheon at Rogers Arena, open to the public, where attendees will gain a unique insight about life in the NHL from hockey legends. As 2019 also celebrates the 100-year anniversary of hockey in BC, the CAN Pro-Am is of particular significance to the province’s historic hockey community.

“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.”

Funds raised from the 2019 CAN Pro-Am Hockey Tournament will support the delivery of CAN’s sports and recreation programs for children, youth and young adults with autism. An estimated 1 in 66 Canadian children is diagnosed with autism and over 16,000 are impacted 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 individuals with autism province-wide will also have the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of sports.”

For more information, or to register your hockey team, please visit [www.canproam.com](http://www.canproam.com).

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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](http://canucksautism.ca).