



VISF 2019 Official News Release
For Release Immediate
June 21, 2019

Cultures Unite at the 15th Vancouver International Soccer Festival and Tournament (VISF)
2019 VISF will Coincide with 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup™ Finals

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA – The Vancouver International Soccer Festival (VISF) is lacing up to kick off its 15th year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 5-7, 2019 when hundreds of athletes, officials, and volunteers will descend on Empire Fields in Vancouver for a tournament that promotes inclusion, respect, and equality.

The VISF is a 7-on-7 World Cup-style soccer tournament that brings together 32 co-ed soccer teams and players from Canada, the U.S.A., local international schools, and multi-cultural communities to celebrate “The Beautiful Game” in a memorable showcase of diversity and cultural harmony for players and audience alike.

First Nations teams, including, Musqueam, Squamish, Cowichan, and Native Indians Football Association are among the 32 teams competing to win the coveted VISF trophy! Also, participating in this year's festivities are new Canadians and recent refugees teams.

Community Leaders will officially open the Festival on Friday, July 5th at 8 pm, at Historic Empire Fields, 3311 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, shortly after friendly matches between First Nations teams, international visiting teams, and the new comers team: a local team comprising both refugees and new Canadians.

Admission to the weekend-long festival is free! It takes place from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. In addition to exciting soccer action, festival highlights include

globally inspired cuisine, a beer & wine garden, house DJ, and flat-screen TVs covering the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup™ Finals

The VISF continues to include fair trade products wherever possible. All matches will be played with Fairtrade Certified™ and FIFA Approved performance soccer balls, and various Fairtrade Certified™ food and beverage options will be available to participants. As a result of these efforts, VISF continues to be recognized by Fairtrade Canada as one of the first and only ongoing Fair Trade Accredited Sporting Events in Canada, meaning Fairtrade goods were specifically chosen over conventional products

"Soccer has an incredible power that can be used to make this world a better place. We work within this powerful platform to promote peace, equality, health, and education for everyone," says Adri Hamael, the Founder and Executive Director of VISF and the One Team for Peace Society.

Major sponsors include: City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board, Sport Hosting Vancouver, VOLO Athletics, Central City Brewers & Distillers, Shaw Multicultural Channel, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), and Fairtrade Canada. For more information, visit www.oneteamunited.ca

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that we play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

-30-

Media Contact: Adri Hamael
Mobile: (604) 727-7038
Email: info@visf.ca

Arabic - <https://youtu.be/DIpUezjmagM>

English - <https://youtu.be/IWXx8MHeFEo>

French - <https://youtu.be/tDT90tGxqbY>

Mandarin - <https://youtu.be/ucnwY-L7Xi8>

Russian - <https://youtu.be/IDJQ9oV3wVg>

Spanish - <https://youtu.be/h9aEHZ6X2Z0>