

June 21, 2018

Pacific Rim Basketball Classic Tips Off in Greater Victoria

VICTORIA, B.C. – Representatives from Canada Basketball, The Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission and Tourism Victoria are busy preparing for the Victoria leg of The Pacific Rim Basketball Classic. The Pacific Rim Basketball Classic is a two game exhibition series featuring the Canadian men's national basketball team against the People's Republic of China men's national basketball team. Games will be played in Vancouver on June 22 and Victoria June 24.

"British Columbia and Vancouver Island have a long history of basketball excellence" said Keith Wells, Executive Director - Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission. "Basketball is incredibly popular at the youth level locally. The Pacific Rim Basketball Classic has naturally generated a lot of interest and the community is keen to welcome high-caliber national teams to Greater Victoria."

"The Pacific Rim Basketball Classic is a great opportunity for basketball fans in Victoria to come out and show their support for our national team as we continue to work towards our goal of qualifying for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019," said Rowan Barrett, Assistant GM/Executive VP, Senior Men's Program. "Having the opportunity to play games at home on Canadian soil, in front of family and friends, is an experience our players won't ever forget."

"Hosting a game as part of Pacific Rim Basketball Classic creates a lot of momentum for the newly formed Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission" stated Paul Nursey, President and CEO – Tourism Victoria. "Sport tourism is a strategic focus of Tourism Victoria. This is exactly the type of event we want to attract to Greater Victoria, as it provides both profile for the destination and is supported strongly in the community."

The two games for Pacific Rim Basketball Classic are the first in a series of games for the Canadian men's national basketball team this summer. Following the two games in BC the team will head east to Toronto for the FIBA World Cup Qualifier game versus the Dominican Republic at Ricoh Coliseum on June 29, before heading to Ottawa for a game against the US Virgin Islands on July 2 in another FIBA World Cup Qualifier at the Arena at TD Place.

The Victoria leg of the Pacific Rim Basketball Classic will be played at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre at 5 pm on Sunday, June 24. Tickets are still available and can be purchased through the Canada Basketball website (www.basketball.ca).

The Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission is a not-for-profit entity dedicated to increasing the quality and quantity of sport related events and activities hosted in Greater Victoria. The structure of our model is based on best practices learned from leading sport tourism destinations from around world.

Canada Basketball is the national organization governing basketball in Canada. Canada Basketball aspires to excellence in leading the growth and development of the game at home, and in pursuing medal performances on the international stage.

Tourism Victoria (Greater Victoria Visitors and Convention Bureau) is our region's official, not-for-profit destination marketing organization working in partnership with nearly 1,000 businesses and municipalities in Greater Victoria.

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