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Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise

**PROVINCE TRANSFERING PNE TO CITY OF VANCOUVER**

VANCOUVER – Government has introduced changes to legislation that will transfer ownership and management of the PNE to the City of Vancouver, set out the city’s authority to approve uses of Hastings Park lands and clarify the PNE Corporation’s authority to operate the exhibition and its other activities, said Minister of State for Deregulation Kevin Falcon, who has responsibility for the PNE.

“The PNE is very important to residents of Vancouver, and a vital economic engine that generates more than \$115 million in economic spinoff yearly and employs 4,000 people throughout the course of the year,” said Falcon. “We are transferring responsibility of the PNE to the City of Vancouver because we feel the municipal level of government is best-suited to manage the role of the PNE and, based on consultation with stakeholder groups, develop the direction of the exhibition into the future.”

Legislation introduced today will give the City of Vancouver authority to appoint members to the PNE board of directors as of Jan. 1, 2004, making possible an agreement announced in April to transfer control of the PNE from the province to the city.

It will also amend the Hastings Park Trust. The trust was established in 1889 granting Hastings Park to the city (as trustee) “for the use, recreation and enjoyment of the public.” Since that time, the activities taking place on the lands have evolved. The amendments will reflect current uses of the park lands and enable the city to authorize future uses that are consistent with existing legislation.

The city will maintain the PNE in its current location through the 2005 season. Future direction of the exhibition will be determined through a visioning exercise being undertaken in consultation with stakeholders.

“Hastings Park and the PNE are part of the historic fabric of our city,” said Mayor Larry Campbell. “We welcome the opportunity to work with the community and other stakeholders to build on their vision for the PNE and its role within the park.”

The PNE encompasses the fair, Playland Amusement Park and annual building rental and facility operations.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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