

## News Release

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### **World's largest hockey stick gets lit with new visual appeal**

**Duncan, BC** – This week the iconic hockey stick and puck on the Cowichan Community Centre will have a new lighting system installed, enabling changing colours and patterns in addition to the classic white lights.

The CVRD and Cowichan Community Centre staff have heard requests for many years to see the lights illuminating the World's Largest Hockey Stick modernized. This need was recognized recently as the sporting icon became a natural gathering place for those rallying in sympathy with Humboldt, Saskatchewan, following the deadly bus crash involving the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team. Without the technology to change the colours of the lights, it was a sizable challenge to reflect the team colours on the dark background of the stick for a vigil held on the property in 2018.

"We're excited to use the new lights to better celebrate and support community activities and rejuvenate one of Vancouver Island's most identifiable landmarks," said Terri Askham, Manager of the Cowichan Community Centre.

The new lighting system will enable changing colours and patterns, and is more energy efficient and easier to maintain than the older LED lighting. The new lights are also expected to hold up better in extreme weather conditions.

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### **About the World's Largest Hockey Stick:**

The World's Largest Hockey Stick was commissioned by the Government of Canada for the Canadian Pavilion at the Expo 1986, in Vancouver, Canada. Since May 21, 1988, the stick has been displayed alongside of the Cowichan Community Centre in Duncan, BC.

The stick and puck are approximately 40 times larger than life size. The shaft and blade of the stick are made in sections with steel-reinforced Douglas Fir beams measuring 3 foot by 4 foot (91.44 cm by 1.2192 m) for a total length of 205 feet (62.48 metres). The stick weighs 28,118 kg (61,000 pounds) and was built in Penticton, BC. The final product was trucked to Vancouver in two pieces, spliced together on the ground, and lifted into position on August 21, 1985. After the fair in Vancouver, the hockey stick was transported to Vancouver Island by barge and 3 flat-bed trucks exactly two years later, on August 21, 1987.

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