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DREAMNIGHT AT THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM PROVIDES WONDER-FILLED EVENING FOR YOUNG PATIENTS

Vancouver, B.C. – On May 17, the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre stayed open late for a very special group of 500 children with chronic and serious life-threatening illnesses and their families for the ninth edition of Dreamnight.

“Hosting Dreamnight each year is just one of the many ways that the Vancouver Aquarium gives back to the community, particularly children in need,” says Dr. John Nightingale, president and CEO. “Staff and volunteers donate their time to offer these children, their families and caregivers an unforgettable evening.”

From live entertainment by award-winning children’s performer Charlotte Diamond, to face painting and fun activities, the evening was filled with smiles, laughter and wonder. Children enjoyed watching the beluga and dolphin shows, interacting with interesting creatures in the wet lab, and being entertained by the beloved beluga mascot, Bee Bop.

“Dreamnight at the Aquarium is an unforgettable evening for patients and families at BC Children's Hospital. Having open access to all the exhibits and shows is particularly meaningful for families who may not ordinarily get to visit the Aquarium while their child is ill,” mentions Diane Hart, director of the Child Life Department at the BC Children's Hospital. “The team at the Aquarium goes above and beyond to make this a spectacular event.”

This year, Dreamnight was enjoyed by patients from BC Children's Hospital, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, Ronald McDonald House, Starlight Children's Foundation Canada, Canuck Place Children's Hospice, Make-A-Wish Foundation of BC & Yukon, Children's Wish Foundation, Variety - The Children's Charity, Sunshine Foundation Dreams for Kids, and Children's Heart Network.

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor, Spence Diamonds, and our supporting sponsors, McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada and ARC. Photography for the event was provided by Ophelia Photography.

About the Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, research and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

-30-

Note: Pictures are available to the media.

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