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## **VANCOUVER AQUARIUM'S ANNUAL TOAST TO THE COAST RAISES RECORD-BREAKING \$80,000 FOR CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Vancouver Aquarium's sixth annual Toast to the Coast event held on Friday, November 4, kicked off Ocean Wise month with a bang. One of the Aquarium's signature fundraising events, Toast to the Coast raised over \$80,000—all proceeds directly support the Aquarium's conservation, research and education programs.

"Year after year, Toast to the Coast gets bigger and better and remains one of our most awaited and successful fundraising events, thanks to the unwavering support of presenting sponsor CIBC, many of Vancouver's business community and over 500 passionate individuals," says Dr. John Nightingale, president and CEO, Vancouver Aquarium. "The night's proceeds directly support vital conservation, research and education initiatives dedicated to effecting change and preserving our fragile aquatic environments. We'd like to express our most sincere thanks to everyone who joined us at Toast to the Coast."

Celebrating Ocean Wise month, Toast to the Coast was once again a sold out event. The crowd enjoyed live entertainment by DJ Leanne and engaged in a little friendly competition while bidding on 80 highly prized auction and raffle items, which included:

- Two tickets to anywhere WestJet flies
- Tahitian pearl and diamond necklace donated by Birks
- Two nights for two at one of the suites at Tinhorn Creek Vineyard's Guest House
- Two-night stay in a private, two-bedroom condo in the heart of Whistler

Between silent auction bids, guests were invited to taste some of the finest Ocean Wise dishes from 16 of Vancouver's favourite restaurants including Ocean Wise founding partner C Restaurant, Hapa Umi, and Provence Mediterranean Grill. Ocean Wise dishes were paired with wine from 19 of B.C.'s very best vineyards, including Blasted Church, Burrowing Owl, Pacific Breeze, Sandhill and Desert Hills.

"In celebration of the Aquarium's national sustainable seafood program, Ocean Wise, we invite Canadians to take the pledge and vow to eat Ocean Wise seafood during the month of November," adds Dr. Nightingale. "Take the pledge today at [www.facebook.com/ocean.wise](http://www.facebook.com/ocean.wise) to join the movement."

### **About Ocean Wise™**

The Ocean Wise symbol next to a menu or seafood item is the Vancouver Aquarium's assurance of an ocean-friendly seafood choice. With over 3,100 Ocean Wise partner locations across Canada, Ocean Wise makes it easy for consumers to make sustainable seafood choices that ensure the health of our oceans for generations to come. Learn more at [www.oceanwise.ca](http://www.oceanwise.ca).

### **About 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, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at [www.vanaqua.org](http://www.vanaqua.org).

**Note to editors:** photos of the event are available for media use

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