



VISF NEWS
April 2010
Contact: Adri Hamael
Mobile: (604) 727-7038
Email: ahamael@visf.ca
Web: www.visf.ca

**VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL SOCCER FESTIVAL BUILDS BRIDGES BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS
COINCIDES WITH CANADA'S MULTI CULTURAL DAY, AND FIFA WORLD CUP™
GET INVOLVED TODAY!**

Vancouver, BC, CANADA – The Vancouver International Soccer Festival (VISF) is lacing up to kick off its 6th year on **Saturday, June 26, 2010** as Canada's most exciting World Cup-style soccer tournament and multi cultural celebration!

VISF was founded in 2003 by Palestinian Canadian, **Adri Hamael**. VISF brings together 32-48 adult, amateur soccer teams from Vancouver, Canada, the United States, and international communities to celebrate "the beautiful game" and showcase Canada's diversity. VISF 2010 coincides with two major occasions: **Canada's Multicultural Day, and the FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa.**

For two days each summer, participants representing their homelands—from Palestine and Israel to Canada and the USA—come together at VISF, not only to represent their countries on the field, but also to celebrate their culture off the field through dance, music, food, and more.

Mayor **Gregor Robertson**, former Vancouver Mayor and Canada's Paralympics ambassador **Sam Sullivan**, Minister of Multiculturalism **Wally Oppal**, Canada's former Minister of Sports, **Stephen Owen**, Members of Parliament, Members of the Canadian National Soccer Team, and members of the media have attended past festivals.

Mayor Gregor Robertson, who is an avid soccer player, will officially open the 2010 VISF on June, 26 2010. "*VISF is a wonderful contributor to the sporting and cultural life of our city*" says Vancouver Mayor **Gregor Robertson**.

"*VISF is setting a wonderful example for our Olympic and Paralympics host city, while working to improve the quality of life for kids at home and abroad.*" Says former Vancouver Mayor and Canada's Paralympics Ambassador **Sam Sullivan**

"*Soccer is an amazing medium to build bridges between cultures and nations,*" says **Adri Hamael**, Festival Founder. "*On the soccer field, our differences melt away. There is no Arab and Jew, black and white, rich and poor. When the ball drops, nationality and color of skin do not matter anymore. We have one common goal: to win the game as a team.*"

OUR IMPACT

At VISF, we have ALWAYS believed in the power of giving! We know that we organize an INCREDIBLE soccer festival and cultural celebration, but we also know that is not quite enough to make an impact on our country and the world, that is why, ever since we organized our first soccer festival, we have been doing everything we can to support worthy causes in our local and international community.

In fact, our past festivals raised significant funding and awareness for worthy causes:

- **Youth and children impacted by war.** Through *Peace it Together Society* www.peaceittogether.ca , we co funded an international peace camp for youth from Canada, Israel, and Palestine.
- **Youth and children impacted by life threatening illnesses.** Through The Make-A-Wish Foundation of BC and Yukon www.makeawishbc.ca , we co funded few wishes to children with life- threatening medical conditions.

Presently, we are directing our focus and funding towards causes that promote *global peace, and social change through soccer*.

Pending funding, **proceeds from VISF 2010** will co fund a trip for a mix of Male, Female, Arab, Jewish, and Canadian soccer players from Israel, Palestine, and Canada to play at 2010 VISF coed division- under the banner *WORLD PEACE TEAM*.

REGISTRATION INFO AND DEADLINES:

Team Registration is now open!

Registration is open for all ethnic teams from Canada and the USA.

Note: International teams are invited through official partners and affiliates.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Please, visit www.visf.ca/teams.php for more info

2010 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS

- Seven aside multi-ethnic soccer tournament
- Exciting round robin action with men's and co-ed divisions.
- Private on site beer and wine garden, complete with house DJ.
- Broadcast of the **2010 FIFA World Cup Games**. The festival site will be equipped with wide-screen tournaments TVs courtesy of Sony Styles.
- Non-alcoholic family and kid's zone offering face painting and games.
- An exciting opening and closing ceremonies.
- Onsite community breakfast hosted by VIPS and dignitaries. The Vancouver Mayor, Minister of Multiculturalism, and media and sports celebrities have hosted past events. **Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson** will officially open the 2010 VISF
- Thousands of dollars worth of prizes will be won throughout the weekend!

VISF 2010 INFORMATION:

LOCATION

Andy Livingston Park and Sport Arena
89 Expo Boulevard,
Vancouver BC CANADA

DATES AND TIMES

Saturday and Sunday, June 26th and 27th 2010

Duration: 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

SCHEDULE

June 26 Opening Ceremony
June 26 First Round Men and Coed Divisions
June 26 Live Entertainment

June 27 Round 16
June 27 Live Entertainment
June 27 Quarterfinals & Semifinals
June 27 Mens Final
June 27 Coed Final & Closing Celebration

Game schedules, and other schedule of events will be published on our website www.visf.ca

GET INVOLVED

Please, get involved today! Visit our website for more information: www.visf.ca

