

NANAIMO – February 22, 2017

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES PUBLIC DEBATE & DISCUSSION ON EVENTS CENTRE

The Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce is presenting an evening of community discussion and debate on both sides of the Events Centre Referendum Question Tuesday, at 6:30 pm on February 28 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre.

According to Kim Smythe, Chamber CEO, “The intent is to provide a forum for both sides to come together in a non-political environment, and respectfully present their position. We want to appeal to undecided voters especially. We’re providing a platform for the community to publicly and openly question each side, remembering we’re also friends and neighbours.”

The YES and NO side of the ballot question have formed leadership groups and have confirmed that their representatives will attend this presentation which will feature a traditional, moderated debate, with an information session in advance, and a Q & A period to follow.

“After several City-sponsored information events, Chamber members still urged us to generate further independent discussion on this \$80 million subject”, Smythe stated. “The Chamber is the appropriate organization to act as a neutral third party and offer opportunities for further community discussion.”

Since the Events Centre proposal surfaced, the Chamber has committed to a role as an information conduit between both sides and the business community. This strategy has been repeatedly reported in the Chamber’s weekly e-newsletter “NewsLine”, published online every Friday.

A Chamber survey on the Events Centre is planned for March 3 with results of members’ opinions published on March 6 so that the business community’s thoughts can be shared prior to the March 11 vote.

There is no charge for admission to the Events Centre Debate at Vancouver Island Conference Centre on February 28. More details will be released as available.

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KIM SMYTHE, CEO & President
250-756-1191, Ext. 1