

CHAIR & MEMBERS
VICTORIA REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION
June 17, 2014

#6

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH GAMES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

PURPOSE

The 20 year celebration of the 1994 Commonwealth Games (the 1994 Games) will be held August 23 at the Pacific Institute of Sports Excellence (Camosun Campus) in Saanich, from 3pm to 8pm. The Commonwealth Games 20th Anniversary organizing committee (the Organization) has asked the Commission to provide free transit service on this day for volunteers of the 1994 Games. This report is presented to the Commission for **APPROVAL**.

BACKGROUND

On February 15, 2011 the Commission approved the following policy:

1. There are no free fares for special groups or events
2. Exceptions may occasionally be granted by the Commission through an exemption request

DISCUSSION

As the largest sporting event ever hosted in the Capital Region, the 1994 Commonwealth Games had a significant economic and cultural impact, attracted thousands of visitors to Victoria, promoted the community nationally and internationally and provided an opportunity for residents to show their sense of pride and celebration.

BC Transit was a significant sponsor of the 1994 Games. With over 14,000 volunteers participating in the 1994 Games, large crowds of volunteers are expected at the 20th Anniversary Celebration. Offering free transit for the 1994 Games volunteers will offset traffic and parking congestion, and encourage transit use.

The 1994 Games volunteers will be identified to transit operators by wearing their 1994 Commonwealth Games Jacket and/or providing Anniversary Committee Accreditation.

Summer service to Camosun Interurban is available on Route 21, approximately once every hour, with the last trip leaving at 11:30 pm, and on Route 8, every 35 minutes, with the last trip leaving at 6:08pm.

The Organization has confirmed that BC Transit's sponsorship of the 20th Anniversary Celebration will be promoted in the weeks leading up to the Anniversary Celebration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission **APPROVE** the Organization's request for free travel for their volunteers. This is based on the criteria that this event is the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the largest sporting event ever held in the Capital Region.

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer