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September 16, 2021

Honorable Minister Melanie Mark and
Deputy Minister Neilane Mayhew
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Government of British Columbia
Victoria, BC

Via Email: TAC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Honorable Minister Mark:

Re: Letter of support for East Vancouver events, the **Deighton Cup** and **Whiskey Smoke**, both events at Hastings Park

On behalf of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of BC (HBPABC) of Hastings Park please accept this letter of support to The Deighton Cup in their application for the **Fairs, Festivals, & Events Recovery Fund**.

Hastings Park has been a fixture in East Vancouver for over 140 years. While the track operator is a large corporation, our organization focuses on the activities and the local workers who care, breed, train, and race thoroughbred horses. We employ 100's of local workers from all communities who love what they do albeit for usually entry level wages. We have developed relationships for the first nations community and continue to engage their involvement with our business development.

Events like these are essential to revitalize our sport and increase its relevance in Vancouver and British Columbia. This impacts the province as breeders and ranchers raise and board most horses who run at Hastings Racecourse. We have many minority owners who participate because they love the sport, the day at the track and giving back to our agricultural sector and an industry that they know is important.

Support for these events help our community members learn and understand an industry that is good for all British Columbians and is right in their backyard. In supporting these events, government allows its citizens to expand their entertainment options with direct help in terms of positive employment for those sectors (service, husbandry, grooms and hotwalkers) who need it the most.

The HBPABC, strongly supports The Deighton Cup and the Whiskey Smoke in their application for the **Fairs, Festivals, & Events Recovery Fund** for the following reasons:

Mailing Address: Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of British Columbia, PO
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- Horse racing industry provides British Columbians with approximately 3,600 full-time equivalent jobs. This equates to more than 7,400 individuals who derive an income from racing in full-time, part-time or casual employment. The Deighton Cup event and associated marketing initiatives are driving a renewed interest and excitement in this sport.
- As Vancouver's most celebrated and anticipated social event of the season, The Deighton Cup welcomes over 8000 guests annually, continues to help the rejuvenation of Hastings racecourse, and helped remind past attendees of all the magic and excitement of the sport of horseracing itself which contributes approximately \$200k annually to the B.C. economy.
- Whisky Smoke is a repeatedly sold out event that brings together craft whisky, cigars, and horseracing; a winning combination that resonates with locals and draws out-of-town visitors.
- As an event with over 10 years of history and notoriety, The Deighton Cup (5 years for the Whiskey Smoke) draws in visitors from around the world; keeping the passion for horseracing alive, driving tourism demand, and ensuring B.C. remains a top travel destination for racing lovers across the globe.
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If you require more information about the the HBPA BC, please contact us via our website or directly at hbpaneils@gmail.com or at 604.831.8408.

Regards

David Milburn, President

HBPA BC

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