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Press Release

LANGLEY FESTIVAL FEATURES INTER-CULTURAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

LANGLEY, BC – AUGUST 6, 2008 Langley's International Festival (LIF) will return to Douglas Park this year on August 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., adding a new initiative – an international mini-soccer tournament to their multicultural event. Adults from across the Lower Mainland and Greater Vancouver areas are representing more than 18 countries; will play in this competition to celebrate their culture in the Langley community as part of the festival fanfare. Some of the players in the tournament will celebrate their ethnic heritage are from Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, India, Afghanistan, Africa, Spain, Germany, England, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxemburg, and Thailand.

LIF Soccer tournament coordinator Jose Ingunza, who has played soccer since age ten in his home country of Peru, says that he's always had a passion for the sport. Since moving to Canada 15 years ago, he continues to enjoy the game both as a spectator and now plays Saturdays in a recreational league. Jose has always had an appreciation for cultural heritage as well as a love of soccer. When he heard of an opportunity to create an inter-cultural soccer tournament for Langley's International Festival, he couldn't resist getting involved.

"We have many soccer fans in Peru where I come from. It is exciting to bring a mini tournament to Langley for people to enjoy. We've worked very hard for the past couple of months to bring the players together. The soccer tournament will be professional with uniforms, standard rules, referees and a trophy donated by the Irish Heritage Society. It's my hope that we can include a children's tournament in the festival next year. It's important that we appreciate and recognize where we all originated from as well as enjoying the sport" says Ingunza.

Shar Dubas, International Festival Coordinator, says that the mini-soccer tournament ties in nicely with the goals of the festival, supported by Langley's Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Task Force. Its mandate is to focus on ways to create ongoing multiculturalism dialogue, awareness and education. Dubas says that support for this year's event has been tremendous.

Sponsors for this year's festival include the City of Langley, Township of Langley, Shaw Multicultural Channel, Langley Times, Douglas Park & Recreation Centre, local merchants, and other community groups and businesses. Partial net proceeds of the event will go to the Langley School District Foundation for their International Students program for the Karen Refugee students from Myanmar. For more information, visit the festival website at www.internationalfestival.ca or contact Coordinator Shar Dubas at 604.530.4661.