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Draft Press Release

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL BRINGS LANGLEY CULTURES TOGETHER

LANGLEY, BC – JULY 9, 2008 Langley's International Festival Society will host its 7th annual cultural festival on Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Douglas Park in the heart of Langley. More than 58 countries will be represented at this free outdoor event. The festival is the centerpiece of a civic committee called the Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Task Force, supported by both the City of Langley and Township of Langley municipal governments. Its mandate is to focus on ways to create ongoing multiculturalism awareness and education. The festival and events leading up to it will aid in the promotion of these goals.

Shar Dubas, International Festival Coordinator, says the event continues to grow. Sponsors for this year's festival include the City of Langley, Township of Langley, Shaw Multicultural Channel, Langley Times, Douglas Park & Recreation Centre and local merchants, and other community groups and businesses. Partial proceeds of the event will go to the Langley School District Foundation for their International Students program for the Karen Refugee students from Myanmar.

"Last year, more than 5,000 people attended our event which represented 40 countries. We anticipate attendance at 8,000 this year. Our focus continues to be the celebration of Canada's amazing diversity and to inspire unity. We accomplish this by inviting people from all countries to bring together their ethnic traditions, food, costumes, and performing and visual arts in a safe environment. Every year, we feature an international marketplace, fashion show, and ethnic cuisine, and this year we are adding an International Soccer Tournament with more than 15 countries represented. We're also featuring a Kids Zone, a Youth Zone and a Senior's Chalet. There's something for everyone," Dubas said.

People of all cultural backgrounds are invited to share their heritage and traditions with the Langley community. Opening this year's festival is Team Cheondoong with "Thunder Begins: Celebration of Drums", a tribute to one of the most solemn and majestic sounds of nature delivered with passion and energy. The excitement continues with Mexico Vivo, a dance troupe specializing in folkloric and salsa dance and Portal A Tango, a duo who present the magical beauty of Argentina's unique contribution to the world of music and dance. Other performers include the Old Time Fiddle Kids and Surrey Square Wheelers (Canada), the Hamid Behrouzinia and Hamid Honari performance (Iran), the Miyana Group (West Africa), Shyama Priya Singh (First Nations), AVC Edelweiss Dancers (Germany), Cheondoong Performing Arts Society (Korea) and the Silver Diamond Country Dancers from (USA). For more information, contact the festival website or Coordinator Shar Dubas at 604.530.4661.