



## Media Advisory

February 20, 2006

### HEROS graduates first class with new drug program and shoot out for corporate funds

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Twenty teens from the Downtown Eastside will have some hefty support behind their graduation from HEROS next week when the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Giants, City of Vancouver and TELUS come out to support a new drug awareness program and raise funds for their society.

HEROS, the Hockey Education Reaching Out Society, started in 2000 using hockey, soccer, and education to help Downtown Eastside elementary school students with challenging backgrounds learn academics, life skills, and self-esteem.

Six years later, HEROS is graduating its first-ever class of 20 mentors, all 15 and 16 years old, with the inaugural session of the Staying on Side drug awareness program put on by the VPD and Vancouver Giants. The new mentors will take the one-hour program from VPD drug police officers and Giants players who have been walking the Downtown Eastside streets with the VPD drug squad.

Following the Staying on Side session, the mentors, VPD and Vancouver City councillor Suzanne Anton will take to the ice with players from the Vancouver Canucks and Giants to shoot for corporate dollars. TELUS will donate \$2,000 to HEROS for each target broken by participants during the HEROS Shoot Out.

**Where:** Britannia Skating Rink (1661 Napier Street, Vancouver)

**When:** 10:15 a.m. – 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 22

10:15 a.m. VPD Deputy Chief Constable Jim Chu will take to the ice with HEROS mentors, Vancouver Giants, and a TELUS representative for a skate.

At 10:30 a.m., the VPD will hold its daily media briefing on the ice, and introduce the Staying on Side program.

At 10:50 a.m., the HEROS Shoot Out will take place. A net will be set up with targets, and TELUS will donate \$2,000 to HEROS for each broken target. Participants will include:

- VPD deputy chief Jim Chu
- Vancouver Giant's Captain Mark Fistic
- Vancouver City Councillor Suzanne Anton

- HEROS mentors
- HEROS president Norm Flynn
- A TELUS representative

***Editor's Note: Your cameras and reporters are welcome to attend.***

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