

2024 Canada Day in Coquitlam Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many years has a Coquitlam Canada Day event taken place?

A: 16 years and counting.

In 2000, during the Millennium Year, Coquitlam hosted a successful Canada Day at Mackin Park. In 2009, the second Canada Day celebration took place at Town Centre Park. Since 2009, a Canada Day in-person event has been held annually in Coquitlam with the exception of 2020 when the event was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 event was held as a physically distant drive-through at Douglas College and also featured online programming. In 2022, the community was welcomed back to Town Centre Park for an in-person event.

Q: How many people attend Canada Day in Coquitlam?

A: Approximately 85,000 people attended the *Coquitlam Canada Day* celebration in 2023 at Town Centre Park. It is estimated that 30,000 watched the fireworks.

Q: How is the event being responsive to the need for reflection on Canada's history and colonial past?

A: We acknowledge that many community members find Canada Day events triggering, and in the spirit of Reconciliation we hope to create an event that allows opportunities for understanding and collective healing.

We are taking steps to ensure that these modifications utilize a trauma informed lens and have been working to connect with the Intergovernmental Relations department to ensure the *kʷikwə́łəm* First Nations are aware of our plans and feel welcome to participate.

The City encourages its residents to reflect on our nation's history, colonial past, and the impact of colonial policies on Indigenous peoples, as we strive to collectively learn and commit to do better in the future. To support this, we are working closely with the groups participating in Canada Day to make key changes to the event, including changing the event name in 2022 and finding new opportunities to include educational information on Indigenous history and support resources. We will also have online educational and support resources that will be made available pre, during and post event. The purpose of these changes are to ensure we have a more nuanced event that is sensitive to the diverse range of community perspectives on Canada Day.

This year an Indigenous non-profit society, Spirit of the Children that focuses on providing supports and resources to Indigenous families will be participating in the event to provide an educational activity of smudging. Smudging is a sacred

ceremony to purify the body, mind and spirit as a process of healing. They will be located in the Meadow area.

Q: How does the event aim to manage environmental sustainability?

A: All waste stations onsite have a 4-stream diversion. After the waste is collected, a supplier will sort through each piece of waste to divert as much away from landfill as possible.

All food vendors onsite will provide eco-friendly packaging to assist with reducing landfill waste.

We encourage event participants to car pool, use transit or walk to the event site where possible.

Q: How is the event accessible?

A: The following features of the event support accessibility:

- A sign language interpreter will be beside the stage for the opening ceremony speech and the end-of-night speech before the fireworks.
- All pathways in the Town Centre Park event site and pathways connecting the event site to the accessible parking and pick-up/drop-off locations are wheelchair accessible.
- Cable covers and other event set-up wiring are graded to allow easy wheel-chair access.
- In front of the Meadow Stage, we will have Traxx accessible mats for a dedicated accessible viewing area. Please see the Site Map for Meadow Stage location.
- Service animals are welcome at the event; an animal watering station is available at the event water station (see Accessibility Map).
- Kinsight will be at the event to provide information on their services for children, youth and adults with developmental delays or disabilities, and to provide the Break Zone; a sensory friendly, quiet place for anyone needing a break (can be found on the Site and Accessibility Map).
- Lighting will be provided after the fireworks
- Free ear plugs are available at the Information Booth for people with sensory sensitivities.
- To reduce barriers to recreation and promote gender equity, the concession washroom includes sanitary products.
- All restrooms and portable toilets have universal units and wheelchair accessible units with a "C" shape handle.

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- Event attendees that require additional support can visit the Information Booth and staff are happy to help
- There are a number of wheelchair accessible fireworks viewing areas including Town Centre Park Community Plaza Stage and Evergreen Cultural Centre side of the lake
- The Meadow Stage has large, flat open grass space for accessible viewing (see Accessibility Map.)
- An Accessibility map is available at the Info Booth along with a list of wheelchair friendly service providers that have accessible units in their fleet.
- There are a number of wheelchair accessible parking stalls at the event.
- There are two wheelchair accessible drop off/pick up areas: Town Centre Park Lot A and off Guildford Way at Eastwood St. HandyDART service can drop off at these designated points as well.

Q: How are we protecting against the environmental impacts of the fireworks?

A: The carbon footprint from the Canada Day fireworks is equivalent to half a day of use of patio propane heaters. In addition, our vendor offsets their carbon footprint with environmental donations.

A fireworks test shot is fired 20min before the show to reduce impact on wildlife.

Q: How can I be a sponsor next year?

A: To be a sponsor next year, please contact CorporatePartners@coquitlam.ca

Q: How can I be a vendor next year?

A: To be a vendor next year, please contact FestivalsAndEvents@coquitlam.ca.

Q: How can I inquire to be a performer next year?

A: Apply online through the [Arts and Culture Entertainment Program](https://www.coquitlam.ca/faq.aspx?TID=71) application form (<https://www.coquitlam.ca/faq.aspx?TID=71>).