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## Hundreds of First Nations Youth from Across BC to Compete in Kelowna at the 2020 Junior All Native Basketball Tournament

**Westbank, Syilx Territory:** From March 15-20, 2020, Syilx Basketball will host the annual Junior All Native Basketball Tournament (JANT) in Kelowna, BC.

Taking place for over 40 years, this is the largest youth basketball tournament in BC, with an estimated 80 teams and just over 1200 athletes, between the ages of 10-17, from First Nations throughout BC. Syilx Basketball looks forward to welcoming and hosting these young First Nations athletes, their families, Nation members and coaches to the Syilx Okanagan territory for this Tournament. JANT provides a critical opportunity to foster wellness, sportsmanship, leadership and Nation pride amongst the First Nations youth that participate, and we are honoured to be contributing to this growth.

Previously, Syilx Basketball hosted JANT in Kelowna in 2017. It has also been hosted in Kitimat (2019) and Vancouver (2018). The event will be held in 5 locations across Kelowna. Opening ceremonies will take place on March 15, 2020, with the further details to be announced at a later date.

Amanda Montgomery, Syilx Basketball Coach states "It is an honor for Syilx Basketball to be hosting the Junior All Native Tournament in 2020. As a coach I've seen first-hand the profound impact that events like this have for First Nations youth. Not only does training and participating at JANT promote mental and physical wellness with our youth, it also offers these young athletes recognition and support from their communities and peers. At the end of the day there are life long connections and experiences being made both on and off the court, which is a win for everyone".

"Tourism Kelowna is proud to support Syilx Basketball in bringing the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament back to Kelowna," said President & CEO, Lianne Ballantyne. "Our organization takes pride in supporting Indigenous tourism and events and we are excited to welcome B.C.'s largest youth basketball tournament to our city in 2020."

**For further info contact:**

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