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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camosun College Child Care Services hosts first-ever Victoria Tea Festival, March 11

What's the difference between black, oolong, green and herbal teas? Did you know tea can reduce the impact of heart disease?

Find out the answers to these and other tea mysteries at the first-ever Victoria Tea Festival hosted by Camosun College Child Care Services with presenting sponsor Silk Road, Sunday, March 11 at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street.

The event is a fundraiser for Camosun College's Child Care Services. Camosun operates two licensed child care facilities, one on each campus, for infants, toddlers and preschool children.

"Our centres provide high quality day care in a safe and nurturing environment allowing parents the opportunity to pursue their education and career goals while raising children," says Lisa Stekelenburg, manager of Camosun's child care services and one of the event organizers.

"But on-campus child care poses a unique set of challenges, including on-going financial viability in a market significantly impacted by government changes and limited resources," she adds. "Our plan is to make this an annual event, so that we can provide the children with necessary and updated indoor and outdoor equipment."

The Victoria Tea Festival will highlight hundreds of teas from all over the world. Participants will enjoy sampling a selection of teas prepared in unique ways and learn about each tea, where it is derived from and how it should be prepared. Participating tea houses, bakeries and restaurants will also be on hand to provide food samples for proper pairing with each tea.

The event also features designated tea sittings throughout the day where guests will learn about specific topics including Maacha teas, the health benefits of tea, tea-food pairings and tea history. Additionally, silent and live auctions will be held with all proceeds to the College's child care facilities.

"Tea is a fast growing industry in North America," says Silk Road's co-owner Daniela Cubelic. "There are many health benefits to tea and Canadians are starting to make tea drinking a regular part of their day. We're extremely pleased to support this event and have this chance to raise the profile of the tea industry while showcasing our products and knowledge. Victoria's long history with tea makes it the perfect location for this event and Camosun's Child Care Services is such a wonderful cause."

Tickets are \$45 each (including GST) and on sale now at the Silk Road Tea Company and Camosun College's Child Care Office. For all the details visit: www.victoriateafestival.com.

Camosun's Child Care Services thanks all the current Victoria Tea Festival sponsors including: Silk Road Tea Company, JagaSilk, The UPS Store and Star Global.

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