

Media Advisory:

**For Immediate Release** October 11, 2022

**For More Information Contact:**

**Dawn Donahue**

[dawn@gogolfevents.com](mailto:dawn@gogolfevents.com)

604-861-0728

Media Relations / Event Producer

**Steve Saccomano**

[steve.sacomano@rbc.com](mailto:steve.sacomano@rbc.com)

604-703-5161

Founder Agriculture for Autism, Volunteer

**\$100,000 RAISED FOR PACIFIC AUTISM FAMILY NETWORK (PAFN) FRASER VALLEY SPOKE**

Since 2014 Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism has raised over \$700,000 for PAFN

**Chilliwack BC – October 13, 2022**, Steve Saccomano, Founder Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism, presented by RBC, awards PAFN Fraser Valley \$100,000.00. Receiving the funds will be Hannah Vannery, Manager, Fraser Valley Spoke. Over 1000 local companies have participated in supporting Ag4Autism. 2023 fundraising and event planning underway, with 2023 event dates being announced today.

**What:** PAFN Fraser Valley (Chilliwack) receives another \$100,000 from Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism 2022 fundraising events

**Who:**

Ken Popove, Mayor, City of Chilliwack

Netty Tam, Manager of Business Development, CEPCO

John Schulstad, RBC Community Manager, Chilliwack, Ag4Autism Sponsor, RBC

Brian Rodenburg, Owner and GM, Ag4Autism Sponsor, West Coast Robotics

Hannah Vannery, Fraser Valley Spoke Manager, Pacific Autism Family Network

Steve Saccomano, Founder and Volunteer, Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism

Two Families who use PAFN Fraser Valley resources (available for photos and interviews)

**When:** Thursday, October 13, 2022, 3:15 PM PST

**Where:** PAFN Chilliwack, 46151 Yale Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 2P2

**Schedule:**

- 3:00 – 3:10 pm: Welcome, Coffee and Pastries served
- 3:15 pm: Cheque Presentation / Photos
- 3:20 pm: Interview opportunities
- 3:30 – 4:00 pm: Departures at leisure

###

*Autism is emerging as one of the most pressing issues of our times.*

*Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. People with ASD often have problems with social communication and interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests. They have different ways of learning, moving, or paying attention. ASD has no single known cause. Given the complexity of the disorder, and the fact that symptoms and severity vary, there are probably many causes. In 2021, the CDC reported that approximately 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD)*

*The Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN) is a centre of excellence and network of supports for individuals with ASD and their families.*

*PAFN's core purpose is to be a Knowledge Centre: Bringing together state of the art resources for research, information, learning, assessment, treatment and support; and building capacity to address the lifespan needs of individuals with ASD and related disorders.*

*"The hub", located in Richmond BC, is a purpose built 60,000–square-foot facility, that is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children, youth, families, and adults with ASD.*

*Calming, family-friendly spaces with soft lighting house clinics, labs, classrooms, observation rooms, multidisciplinary research spaces, libraries, and family information kiosks. Spokes are in Kelowna, Prince George and Chilliwack, working in collaboration with local community partners. The spoke centres have full access to the expertise and information services offered at the hub.*

*The Fraser Valley Spoke, located in Chilliwack BC, opened in December 2019. Providing free resources and programs for children and families living on the spectrum, programs include Parents and Coffee, TOTs Play Group, Youngins' Social Group, Teens Social Group and Neurovaliant Connections Group. Resources include guidance in getting diagnosed, navigating the systems to seek support, help, information and resources, and hands on programs.*

*PAFN provides a "one-stop-shop" for families looking for support to navigate the vast sea of information, designed to meet the unique needs of individuals with ASD and their families, while also providing an open and collaborative environment for autism service providers, clinicians, organizations, and researchers.*

*For more information <https://pacificautismfamily.com/>*

#### **Contacts on Location:**

**Hannah Vannery**  
Manager, Fraser Valley Spoke  
Pacific Autism Family Network  
604-207-1980  
[Hannah@pacificautismfamily.com](mailto:Hannah@pacificautismfamily.com)

**Steve Saccomano**  
Founder, Volunteer  
Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism  
604-703-5161  
[steve.saccomano@rbc.com](mailto:steve.saccomano@rbc.com)