



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday September 30, 2021

### **YOUTH HQ ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF THE ANNUAL ZED HAUNTED HOUSE EVENT DUE TO IMPACT OF COVID-19**

**Red Deer, AB** – The planning committee for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Zed Haunted House event in support of BGC Red Deer has been spending considerable time determining as to whether or not to move forward with this annual event, due to the present Covid situation. The nature of this event involves large numbers of people in an enclosed setting over a period of 14-days and would put considerable demands on the risk mitigations necessary to be able to conduct a safe event for everyone. After consultation with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the City of Red Deer it has been determined that hosting this event at this time may not be in the best interest with respect to the health and safety of our volunteers and the general public. Consequently, it is with tremendous regret that we inform our supporters and the general public that look forward to this event every year that the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Zed Haunted House event will be postponed once again this year.

The Zed Haunted House is the primary major fundraising event for BGC Red Deer generating over \$100,000 annually in support of our programs. “This decision (like last year) is a difficult one and will have a tremendous impact on our fundraisings. I applaud our committee for putting the health and safety of our youth, volunteers and general public first and foremost in their decision-making process.” states John Johnston, Community Engagement Manager.

We will be conducting a variety of different activities to help raise some funds as well as appealing to our loyal supporters every year to consider contributing to Boys and Girls Club (BGC) by visiting [youthhq.ca](http://youthhq.ca) and donating. Some of our well-known characters will be making some appearances within the community to thank our supporters and to promote the return of the Zed Haunted House in October of 2022. We look forward to next year with a renewed optimism, energy and excitement for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Zed Haunted House.

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#### **About BGC Red Deer & District Club**

BGC Red Deer provides fun after school and out-of-school programs and activities to give young people the opportunities to develop their potential and achieve their dreams. As youth develop positive, healthy relationships with peers, role models and family members, they can become the best versions of themselves and develop into the leaders of tomorrow. BGC Red Deer & District was started in 1983, and currently serves over 1,300 youth in central Alberta.

**About Youth HQ**

Youth HQ empowers youth by fostering a community of support. Our network seeks to instill young people with confidence in their unique identities and abilities, providing them with skills for life through knowledge, healthy relationships, and quality experiences while providing safe environments to learn and grow. Youth HQ coordinates programming for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Red Deer & District and BGC Red Deer & District Club, offering numerous programs and services that support children, youth and families.

**For more information, contact:**

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