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Expert advice for employers: Don't compete with the Canucks

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Bosses, you shouldn't fight against Canuck fever and should help your employees in any way possible. That's the advice of a human resources expert to B.C. employers.

Ian Cook, director for research and learning with the B.C. Human Resources Management Association, is advising employers not to push against the momentum that comes from being connected to a sporting event and to help staff get in on the action.

Vancouver fans were a bit frustrated with the Game 1 start time of 5 p.m., a time when many are still working or fighting rush-hour traffic.

"People want to be part of that and they really value that experience," Cook said. "You are likely to lose a lot of goodwill (as an employer) and generate some unwanted behaviours in your workplace if you're trying to ignore it."

Cook recommends introducing flexible work arrangements and allowing people to wear team colours on game days or even letting employees dress up their work spaces with Canucks memorabilia to increase employee engagement.

"(Employers should) set some clear boundaries about work that needs to get done, but at the same time, wherever you can provide flexibility, put it in there."

Metro Vancouver