



For immediate release

## Expo Ernie and Save-On-Foods celebrate \$30 million raised for BC Children's Hospital

**May 26, 2016 – Vancouver, BC** – Official Expo '86 mascot Expo Ernie kicked off his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations with Darrell Jones, President of Save-On-Foods, at BC Children's Hospital today. Joined by patients, their families and the hospital's caregivers, Expo Ernie and Darrell celebrated a spectacular milestone: as a result of this year's fundraising efforts, Save-On-Foods has now raised \$30 million in 30 years for BC Children's Hospital.

The Overwaitea Food Group & Save-On-Foods, its team members, customers and suppliers have been raising funds for BC Children's since late 1986, supporting the purchase of urgently needed medical equipment, childhood disease research, and improvements to treatment spaces at the hospital.

"We're honoured to celebrate such a monumental fundraising achievement with our strong partner Save-On-Foods," said Teri Nicholas, president and CEO of BC Children's Hospital Foundation. "The funding that Save-On-Foods has provided helps us to meet the urgent health needs of our patients. Their generous contributions have enabled us to transform the care children receive, so that we can ensure children and families – no matter where they live in the province – can all receive the best possible care."

In 2008, the Save-On-Foods and Overwaitea Food Group team pledged \$20 million in seed funding for Child Health BC, a province-wide health initiative aimed at improving children's health status and health outcomes in BC. It's the first program of its kind in Canada.

"Save-On-Foods has a 101 year history of supporting the communities that support us. We're so proud to partner with BC Children's Hospital and Child Health BC - which provides children outside the Vancouver area access to the care they need, no matter where they live", says Darrell Jones, President of Save-On-Foods. "Many of our customers and team members rely on their services and can't think of a better way to ensure bright futures for the kids of BC than to help make sure they get the care they need, closer to home. We are so grateful to our team members, supplier partners and customers for making it possible for us to achieve this goal."

### About Save-On-Foods

Save-On-Foods is committed to Going the Extra Mile for customers in every community served, every day. Known for its unique approach in customizing each store to best suit the needs of the neighbourhood and sourcing local products wherever possible, the company has been innovating and putting customers first for 101 years.

### About BC Children's Hospital

BC Children's Hospital is the province's only full-service acute-care hospital dedicated to serving close to one million children living in BC and the Yukon. All children who are seriously ill or injured are referred to BC Children's Hospital and are either treated at the hospital facility in Vancouver or, with consultation from BC Children's specialists, in their home community. Last year, more than 86,000 children were treated at BC Children's Hospital. Funds raised by the foundation are used to support BC Children's Hospital, its research institute and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children. For more information visit [www.bcchf.ca](http://www.bcchf.ca) and follow @BCCHF on Twitter.

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