

## **Save-On-Foods commits another \$15 million to BC Children's Hospital on the heels of completed \$20 million pledge**

Funds committed to Canada's first pediatric walk-in immunization clinic and urgent equipment needs

**December 5, 2016** - Close to one-third of B.C. kids at two years of age, among the most vulnerable in our society, are not up to date with their immunizations. A transformational \$15 million gift from Save-On-Foods will establish Canada's first storefront immunization clinic at BC Children's Hospital and consultation services to physicians across the province. Its goal: to improve immunization rates for all children, including those with complex medical conditions. The donation will also fund urgently needed medical equipment.

The new pledge of \$15 million comes six months after Save-On-Foods fulfilled its original pledge, made in 2007, to donate \$20 million to BC Children's Hospital to help fund its Child Health BC program, which makes healthcare accessible to kids around the province. The completion of that \$20 million pledge brings the total Save-On-Foods has donated to the hospital to \$30 million in the 30 years it has been a fundraising partner for BC Children's Hospital.

"For years, Save-On-Foods has led the way in funding innovative programs that profoundly affect the health and well-being of BC children," said Teri Nicholas, President & CEO, BC Children's Hospital Foundation. "This commitment brings their all-time giving to \$45 million - making Save-On-Foods our biggest donor of all time."

The new immunization clinic will be situated in Children's Hospital's busy ambulatory care building and open not only to patients, but all family members. Last year, 86,000 children and youth were treated at BC Children's - counting their siblings and parents, the clinic has potential to provide thousands of immunizations annually when it opens to the public in the fall of 2017.

"We are striving for improved immunization rates for BC kids," said Leslie Arnold, executive leader of BC Children's Hospital. "This clinic will be a safe, reliable and convenient place for families to come while at our hospital, as well as providing province-wide leadership to community health providers."

In addition to welcoming the general population of children and families to ensure their immunizations are up to date, the clinic will provide specialized services to young patients with complex medical conditions requiring individualized treatment.

Save-On-Foods' gift will also create a fund for urgently-needed equipment. State-of-the-art medical equipment is vital to the provision of outstanding pediatric care. This will help ensure the hospital can purchase urgently needed equipment.

"In every community Save-On-Foods serves, there are families who have come to rely on BC Children's Hospital for life-saving care," said Darrell Jones, President of Save-On-Foods. "By supporting innovations in child health, we are supporting the families who work and shop in our stores."

### **About Save-On-Foods**

Save-On-Foods has supported BC Children's Hospital for 30 years and 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, in consultation with 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. Visit [www.bcchf.ca](http://www.bcchf.ca) and follow @BCCHF in Twitter.

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