

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate publication**DESJARDINS GROUP GIVES \$2.5 MILLION TO CHU SAINTE-JUSTINE  
TO LAUNCH THE MEDICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING FUND**

**Montreal, Tuesday, November 11, 2014** – Thanks to a \$2.5-million contribution from the Desjardins Group, CHU Sainte-Justine celebrated yesterday its mission to educate the top pediatric practitioners of tomorrow. This extraordinary gift, made in the context of the CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation's *Healing More Better* campaign, will go toward the creation of the **Medical Leadership Training Fund**. The purpose of the Fund is to propel the level of excellence of young physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals at Sainte-Justine to new heights and thus ensure the children of today and tomorrow have access to the best possible healthcare. The ultimate goal is to grow the fund to \$20 million to put a sustainable funding and training infrastructure in place.

"As part of our teaching mission, Sainte-Justine has a responsibility to provide our teams with an environment conducive to ongoing professional development, career advancement opportunities and the tools to improve their practices," said **Dr. Fabrice Brunet**, Chief Executive Officer, CHU Sainte-Justine. "To be able to attract and retain the best talent is vital to maintaining our level of excellence and disseminating knowledge on a Quebec-wide basis. Honing our expertise continues to be one of the ways we can achieve our objectives, and having Desjardins Group as an initiating partner is a tremendous privilege indeed."

"Desjardins Group is proud to team up with the Medical Leadership Training Fund and support the critical leadership role that Sainte-Justine plays in the worldwide pediatric community," said **Monique F. Leroux**, Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, Desjardins Group. "In the coming decade, close to 200 fellowships associated with this Fund will enable leading doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals to fine-tune their skills and advance the frontiers of science. By investing in up-and-coming talent at Sainte-Justine, Desjardins will be doing its part to promote the health and wellness of Quebec children, now and in the future."

"Our partnership with Desjardins Group goes back many years," stated **Anièle Lecoq**, President and Executive Director of the CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation. "Their outstanding vision and commitment speak to their determination to pushing the boundaries of knowledge, continuously investing in people and their development, and standing in solidarity with the Quebec community."

**About the CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation**

The Foundation's mission is to engage the community and support CHU Sainte-Justine in its pursuit of excellence and its commitment to providing the children and mothers of today and tomorrow with one of the highest levels of healthcare in the world. [www.fondation-sainte-justine.org](http://www.fondation-sainte-justine.org)

### **About CHU Sainte-Justine**

The Sainte-Justine university hospital centre (CHU Sainte-Justine) is the largest mother-child centre in Canada and the second largest pediatric hospital in North America. Affiliated with the Réseau universitaire intégré de santé de l'Université de Montréal (RUIS), it has 5,153 employees, including 1,392 registered nurses and LPNs; 1,036 other healthcare professionals; 520 physicians, dentists and pharmacists; 822 residents; and more than 250 researchers, 300 volunteers and 3,400 interns and students in a wide range of disciplines. Sainte-Justine has 484 beds, including 35 at the Centre de réadaptation Marie Enfant, the only exclusively pediatric rehabilitation centre in Quebec. The World Health Organization has recognized CHU Sainte-Justine as a "Health Promoting Hospital." [www.chusj.org](http://www.chusj.org)

### **About Desjardins Group**

Desjardins Group is the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and the fourth largest cooperative financial group in the world. As Quebec's largest private employer, Desjardins creates 65,000 direct and indirect jobs, and has been ranked as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers by Mediacorp. Desjardins actively promotes the cooperative movement and is a strong and committed supporter of projects promoting health and healthy lifestyles, education and arts and culture. Desjardins redistributes the equivalent of \$1 million per day to communities in the form of donations, sponsorships and member dividends. Desjardins also supports international humanitarian causes and economic development projects. [www.desjardins.com](http://www.desjardins.com)

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Sources:

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