



Press release
For immediate release

THE FONDATION DU CHUM RECEIVES A SUBSTANTIAL GIFT FROM DESJARDINS

Montreal, March 7, 2016 – The Fondation du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) was the recipient this morning of a generous gift totalling 2.25 million dollars for its capital fundraising campaign *Giving Ourselves the Best in Health Care*. Representing the Desjardins Group was its President and CEO, Monique F. Leroux.

This gift signals a commitment on the part of Desjardins toward the new CHUM, this major social undertaking in health care. Through its gift, Desjardins will see its name linked to rooms that form the CHUM Academy, an institution which helps ensure the quality and safety of care and services extended to patients by means of the training and the ongoing professional development activities carried out there.

“Health and education are high priorities for Desjardins and the dozens of *caisses populaires* in the Greater Montreal region which have made this gift possible. The CHUM’s role in terms of the population and future members of the medical profession, along with the Academy project with which we are identifying, will be beacons of excellence for all of Quebec society,” said Monique F. Leroux, President and CEO of the Desjardins Group.

“Over and above its contribution to the dispensing of quality patient care and services, the CHUM project also means teaching, research and innovative steps to improve health and save lives. With this significant donation, Desjardins recognizes the importance of the CHUM in our collective future to enable our citizens to be the beneficiaries of the best health care available,” stressed Dr. Fabrice Brunet, President and CEO of the CHUM and of CHU Sainte-Justine.

Making fundraising history

The campaign *Giving Ourselves the Best in Health Care* represents one of the biggest across Canada in the field of health. It makes its appeal to the generosity of all members of society so as to make it possible for the Fondation du CHUM to move ahead with its commitment to both patients and health professionals at the hospital. The result of people’s warm-hearted giving? Over 60% of the final \$300M goal has already been reached.

Daniel Johnson, president of the campaign Cabinet and present at the press conference, added: “Such a significant gift makes evidence the desire of Desjardins to invest in services to our population and, in so doing, to assist CHUM in maintaining its pursuit of excellence both in

research and in education. I can only express my personal joy and encourage the business community to continue partnering with us and sharing this vision.”

About the CHUM and its foundation

The Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM) first and foremost provides highly specialized healthcare in all medical specialties to a regional and supra-regional adult clientele. It is the main centre for development and knowledge transfer through its integrated activities in healthcare, teaching, research, assessment of technologies and treatment methods, as well as quality, the promotion of health and the patient experience. The new CHUM will offer an improved hospital experience in its new downtown Montreal facilities. The CHUM is affiliated to the Université de Montréal and shares its board of directors with the Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine.

chumontreal.qc.ca

Placing the patient at the heart of its commitment, the mission of the Fondation du CHUM is to support its hospital centre. The Fondation provides a source of complementary funding to the CHUM, thus helping to maintain its status as an internationally recognized institution for medical treatment, teaching, research and health promotion. Since its inception in 1998, the Fondation has contributed more than \$136M to the CHUM thanks to its generous donors. The Fondation also relies on the support of its Clinique Santé-voyage and Clinique Santé-préventive, from which all profits go directly to the Fondation. *Giving Ourselves the Best in Health Care.*

fondationduchum.com

About Desjardins Group

Desjardins Group is the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and the sixth largest cooperative financial group in the world, with assets of \$248.1 billion. It has been rated one of the Best Employers in Canada by Aon Hewitt. To meet the diverse needs of its members and clients, Desjardins offers a full range of products and services to individuals and businesses through its extensive distribution network, online platforms and subsidiaries across Canada. Considered North America’s strongest bank according to Bloomberg News, Desjardins has one of the highest capital ratios and credit ratings in the industry.

- 30 -

Information :

Fondation du CHUM

Lilly Nguyen

Director, communications and marketing

Telephone: 514 890-8361 | lilly.nguyen.chum@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Desjardins Group

Jean-Michel Laberge

Public Relations

Telephone: 514 281-7000 ext. 5555350 | media@desjardins.com