

## NEWS RELEASE

**March 8, 2018**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Desjardins donates \$200,000 to the NEO Kids Health Centre at Health Sciences North**

**SUDBURY, ON –** We are one step closer to keeping our children closer to home, thanks to a \$200,000 donation from Desjardins. The donation will go towards the NEO Kids Health Centre at Health Sciences North (HSN); a centre that will accommodate new clinics, services and more pediatricians to care for children in northeastern Ontario.

Children are not small adults. Just like them, their health care needs are unique. This donation will ensure as many children as possible stay in northeastern Ontario to get the care they need, in a child- and youth-centred environment that promotes health and well-being.

"We are extremely grateful to receive this generous donation from Desjardins," said Patricia Mills, President, NEO Kids Foundation. "This donation will bring us one step closer to keeping our NEO Kids closer to home, in an environment designed specifically for their needs. Your exemplary leadership and continued support of our community is inspiring and truly appreciated."

NEO Kids has rapidly outgrown its temporary location and now HSN is planning a new, permanent centre to house NEO Kids. The demand for pediatric care in northeastern Ontario is growing and the need for a more suitable facility will only continue to grow. Last year, there were 35,000 patient visits to NEO Kids. Demand for services is expected to grow by up to 40 per cent over the next ten years.

"Health and education are high priorities for Desjardins and its credit unions in Greater Sudbury. The NEO Kids Foundation, along with the pediatric health care centre project, will be beacons of excellence for all of northeastern Ontario," said Sophie Gingras, Communications Advisor, Desjardins. "Desjardins recognizes the importance of a pediatric health care centre in northeastern Ontario that will enable our children to have access to the best possible health care. We are very proud to support this project," added Ms. Gingras.

"NEO Kids is about caring for children as close to home as possible and providing quality, up-to-date care," said Dr. Sean Murray, Chief of Pediatrics, Medical Director of NEO Kids & Family Program. "We are trying to do what's right for children in northeastern Ontario by providing the type of world class

healthcare that children should and deserve to receive in the North. Thank you Desjardins for bringing us one step closer.”

### **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 \$272 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. Counted among the World’s Strongest Banks according to The Banker magazine, Desjardins has one of the highest capital ratios and credit ratings in the industry.

### **About NEO Kids Foundation**

NEO Kids Foundation raises important funds to support the health of our children in northeastern Ontario. NEO Kids Foundation is dedicated to building awareness for children’s care needs and raising funds for services, equipment, and research to help our youngest and most vulnerable patients. Children need their own voice in health care, champions to herald their health care rights, and resources to help treat their unique medical needs.

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