

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

**#DESJARDINSFOUNDATION PRIZE  
TO BENEFIT LOCAL YOUTH**

Montréal, February 19<sup>th</sup> 2018: Desjardins Foundation has awarded \$1500 to help young people at Édouard-Montpetit High school carry out a special project.

The “à Ta SAnté” smoothie stand will offer students and staff healthy smoothies, but moreover, it will help students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) learn the skills they need to succeed in the workplace. The students working at the stand will oversee its management. They'll be responsible for preparing smoothies, balancing the books, managing inventory, customer service, and everything else involved in running a business. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the students prepare for their first job and gain some restaurant experience.



From left to right: Nathalie Charland, Human Resources and Communications Manager, Pierre Simard, School Director and Josée Mercier, School Animator

#DesjardinsFoundation Prizes help people who work with kids and communities carry out projects with kindergarten, elementary and high school students. This year the Foundation received 1,127 applications, 15% more than last year.

“We received hundreds of inspiring applications for innovative projects from people who are actively involved in helping young people succeed. They all deserved to win!” said Desjardins Foundation Manager Nancy Lee. Desjardins Group employees and officers voted to pick the 199 winning projects.

### **About Desjardins Foundation**

Founded in 1970, [Desjardins Foundation](#) is a charitable organization that contributes to young people's academic success by awarding [prizes](#) and [scholarships](#) and partnering with [respected organizations](#). In 2017, it provided nearly \$2.1 million in program support to over 130,000 young people in Quebec and Ontario. Desjardins Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Desjardins Group, Canada's leading financial cooperative group. The Foundation helps enrich the lives of individuals and communities by promoting education.

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### **Source and information:**

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