



For Immediate Release

TEAM SHORE2SHORE WELCOMED HOME

Fire Fighters Back in White Rock After 13 Day Ride Across Canada

Burnaby, BC (September 22, 2010) – Shore2Shore, White Rock's own dedicated group of fundraising fire fighters, just completed a 13 day ride across Canada - all to raise money for Variety – The Children's Charity. The team began their ride in Halifax, Nova Scotia on September 8th and despite a few RV and bike issues as well as many rainy and windy days, the fire fighters maintained incredible spirits and enjoyed every minute of their ride. Since fundraising began, Shore2Shore has raised over \$50,000 for Variety through community events, online donations and sponsorship. All funds raised will support children throughout British Columbia who have special needs.

The Shore2Shore team arrived back in White Rock on September 21st, along with 20 *Hop on in Hope* participants, community members who fundraised to cycle the last 160km of the ride from Hope to White Rock. Excited family and friends welcomed the fire fighters back into town at an event at the White Rock Pier. Festivities included a performance by Karen Lee Batten, a former Canadian Idol contestant and a BBQ lunch by donation. Catherine Ferguson, Mayor of White Rock and MLA Gordon Hogg were also on hand to welcome the team home.

Shore2Shore team leader, Eric Kameka, was emotional when speaking in front of the crowd of supporters. He thanked everyone especially his team mates for their support and positivity. "Nothing brought us down out there...it was a wicked experience," he said.

Variety's Executive Director, Barbie Hislop, also announced at the event that Variety has just approved a grant of close to \$10,000 for White Rock organization Sources. The grant will fund a program called *Pathways to Competence* for young children and is meant to reduce risk factors for children identified as not school ready. It will increase parent skills to improve their children's chances for school readiness by identifying and helping parents deal with a number of psycho social stressors. Variety's grant will go towards the cost of facilitating the program and for materials.

For more information and photos of Shore2Shore's ride across Canada, visit <http://wrfcharity.blogspot.com>. For more information on Variety – The Children's Charity and to make a donation to Shore2Shore, visit www.variety.bc.ca.

Variety – The Children's Charity raises funds and distributes grants to inspire hope, enrich lives, and build a better future for children in British Columbia who have special needs. Since 1965, Variety has raised over \$155 million for children and families in the province.

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In partnership with

Variety – The Children's Charity

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