



For Immediate Release

**VARIETY HONOURS GENEROUS PHILANTHROPIST
Gala raises record amount!**

Burnaby, BC (November 20, 2009) - The Golden Heart Community Achievement Award Dinner was held at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on Wednesday, November 18th, in honour of the late Peter C. Toigo Sr. The event was a great success, raising \$224,000 for children in British Columbia who have special needs.

The Golden Heart Community Achievement Award is Variety – The Children's Charity's most prestigious mark of distinction, honouring individuals who have made exceptional philanthropic contributions throughout British Columbia and Canada. Peter C. Toigo Sr. was a caring father, generous philanthropist and innovative entrepreneur. In 1982, Toigo's company, Shato Holdings Ltd., made headlines with the purchase of The White Spot Restaurants.

Toigo passed away in 1993 and is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart, Elizabeth, children Louise, Wendy, Peter Jr., Roy, Ron and Rick, fifteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The evening was a touching tribute to Toigo, whose memory is still very much alive in the hearts of his loved ones.

There was fantastic entertainment, delicious food and fantastic auction prizes! Former British Columbia Premier, Bill Vander Zalm, impressed as the evening's auctioneer. In fact, bidding between two parties was so fierce for a Michael Buble package which included two tickets to a New York City concert, flights, hotel and a meet and greet with the artist, that Bruce Allen, Buble's manager, encouraged the bidding to an incredible price of \$10,500 by announcing that the two top bidders would each receive a package! Other great items included dinner for eight at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver prepared by the Fairmont's Executive Chef and a #9 Detroit Red Wings Jersey autographed by Gordie Howe, who was there to sign it in person! The evening was generously sponsored by White Spot Restaurants and Fasken Martineau with entertainment provided by White Spot Executive Chef, Chuck Currie & SaxNoir and Erik Ioannidis & Tiffany Rivera.

Variety – The Children's Charity is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to inspire hope, enrich lives, and build a better future for children in BC. Since 1965, Variety – The Children's Charity has raised more than \$150 million in support of children who have special needs.

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Variety – The Children's Charity

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