



For Immediate Release

January 9, 2020

'Variety Show of Hearts Telethon' Returns to Global BC

(Burnaby, BC) – The official 30-day countdown is on as Variety - the Children's Charity and Global BC gear up for their 54th Annual *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* broadcasting live from the Hard Rock Casino Vancouver on Sunday, February 9. The iconic event will air from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm and can also be streamed at Globalnews.ca/BC.

The eight-hour telecast will introduce viewers to Variety kids from across the province including 12-year-old Brody who has Marfan syndrome, cerebral palsy and epilepsy and who received an adaptive stroller, an electric wheelchair and a van conversion from Variety. Viewers will also have the opportunity to catch up with some of the kids they met during *Variety Week* including 9-year-old Cole who was partially paralyzed after a cancerous tumor crushed his spine. Variety has funded his rehabilitation by providing physiotherapy sessions to help him retrain his muscles and nervous system so he can regain feeling in his legs. Now as Cole tries to take his first unassisted steps, it is with the help of a pair of custom leg braces also provided by Variety.

"The children and families that we're able to help are truly inspiring," said Cally Wesson, Variety BC CEO. "And we're so excited to once again be partnering with Global BC for what is sure to be a Sunday filled with not only spectacular live entertainment but heartwarming stories along with maybe a surprise or two as well."

"Supporting Variety is a big part of Global BC's commitment to helping children with special needs," said Kenton Boston, VP National & Network News, Global News & Variety Chief Barker/Chair of the Board. "Together with our generous viewers throughout the province, we can continue to help kids so that they're able to do what they do best ... just be kids."

Returning hosts include Global BC's Chris Gailus & Sophie Lui, Global Okanagan's Doris Bregolis, 980 CKNW's Jody Vance and CFOX's Karen Khunkhun. They'll be joined by actor Paul Greene, inspirational speaker Cara E. Yar Khan and long-time *Show of Hearts* favourite, Alvin Law.

This year's entertainment line-up will feature performances by Juno Award-winning indie band Said The Whale, singer-songwriter Shawn Austin, Canadian blues rockers Wide Mouth Mason, country artist Todd Richard and special guests, multi-platinum selling group The Tenors.

Last year's *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* raised \$5,765,594. Donations can be made by calling toll free at 310-KIDS and online at variety.bc.ca or by texting "KIDS" to 45678 to make an automatic \$20 contribution.

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About Variety - the Children's Charity:

Variety - the Children's Charity steps in where health care ends providing direct help to children with special needs in BC. For over 50 years, Variety has ensured children have the support to reach their potential. Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$33 million in funding to families and organizations in communities all across the province.

Variety's core grant areas range from mobility programs and life-saving medical equipment to specialized therapies, mental wellness counselling and educational programs. For additional information on how you can support Variety - the Children's Charity, visit variety.bc.ca or call 604.320.0505.

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