



For Immediate Release

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'Variety Show of Hearts' Returns to Global BC

(Burnaby, BC) – Variety - the Children's Charity is excited to announce that the *Variety Show of Hearts* is returning to Global BC as a 3-day event. The iconic fundraiser will kick off on *Global News Morning* on Thursday, February 24 where viewers will be introduced to some of the amazing kids they've helped in 2021. The stories will then continue on all of Global BC's newscasts throughout the day and on Friday, February 25.

Viewers will then be treated to even more stories & surprises when the 56th Annual *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* airs on Saturday, February 26 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Returning to the stage will be hosts Chris Gailus, Sophie Lui, Kristi Gordon, Neetu Garcha, Paul Haysom & Jay Janower from Global BC as well as 980 CKNW's Jody Vance. Joining them will be *Show of Hearts* favourites, Howard Blank, Alvin Law & Marco Pasqua along with actor & parent advocate, Bethel Lee, singer-songwriter, Seven Taviss and Variety Youth Champions, Janelle Milne & Esabella Strickland.

"The past two years have been challenging for us as a charity as we continue to see more and more families reaching out for support," said Cally Wesson, CEO, Variety BC. "Two years ago, we received 10 grant applications a week and now we're receiving over 10 applications a day. With the continued support of British Columbians, we're hoping to help even more kids across the province in 2022."

"The *Variety Show of Hearts* brings people across the province together, with the common goal of providing added support to kids and their families," said Bhupinder Hundal, News Director & Station Manager, Global BC. "During these challenging times, the need to support Variety is even greater and we at Global BC look forward to sharing stories of what your support means for so many families."

Throughout the three days, viewers will see their donor dollars in action when they'll be introduced to children who have been helped by Variety including 4-year-old Cassie from Richmond who received hearing aids and 5-year old Ace from Abbotsford who received an adaptive stroller.

This year's entertainment line-up will feature special guests, sixteen-time Grammy Award-winning music producer & composer, David Foster, singer-songwriter & actress, Katharine McPhee and seven-time Juno Award-winning blues rocker, Colin James.

And making their *Show of Hearts* debut will be six-time Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter, Serena Ryder, singer-songwriter, William Prince, Penticton's own spoken word poet, Shane Koyczan and Canadian violinist, Adrian Anantawan,

Last year's *Show of Hearts* raised \$6,681,873 to benefit children with special needs province-wide. Donations can be made by calling toll-free at 310-KIDS as well as online at variety.bc.ca.

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About Variety - the Children's Charity:

For over 55 years, Variety BC has ensured children with special needs across the province have the support to reach their potential. Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$35 million in funding to families and organizations in communities throughout British Columbia.

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