



For Immediate Release

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'Variety Show of Hearts' Raises \$6,346,637 For BC's Kids

(Burnaby, BC) – Variety - the Children's Charity and Global BC are pleased to announce that this year's *Variety Show of Hearts* raised \$6,346,637 to benefit children with special needs across the province. The total celebrates a cumulation of fundraising efforts throughout the year from individual donors and corporations, community events & groups and school fundraisers.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Variety supporters at a time when the need from kids with more complex health care needs has never been greater. The Show of Hearts is a powerful example of what is possible when people across the province come together for BC's kids," said Andrea Tang, CEO, Variety BC. "Thank you to everyone who supported this year. You have brought hope to so many children and families who have been waiting to hear if Variety can provide the critical support they need."

"As expected, people across BC stepped up in a big way. My heart is full knowing that so many children and families will have their lives positively impacted," said Bhupinder Hundal, News Director & Station Manager, Global BC. "A big thank you to all Global BC viewers and Variety supporters for their generosity."

Since 1966, Variety BC has been partnering with Global BC to share inspiring stories of hope and resilience from children and families across our province and the life-changing impact that British Columbians can make for kids with special needs. This year's telecast was hosted by Global BC's Chris Gailus, Sophie Lui, Sonia Sunger, Paul Haysom, Jennifer Palma, Mark Madryga & Michael Newman along with Todd Talbot, CFOX's Karen Khunkun & Rock 101's Kiah Turner. They were joined by Alvin Law, Marco Pasqua, Howard Blank & Jessica McCreedy together with Variety Youth Champions, Esabella Strickland, Kaitlyn Lye and Jayden & Ashton.

This year's musical guests included Sarah McLachlan, Jim Cuddy, Fefe Dobson, Tyler Shaw and Sacha. Viewers were also treated to flashback clips of *Show of Hearts* legend, Bob McGrath during a special tribute to the *Sesame Street* icon which featured a guest appearance by Bob's daughter, Cat McGrath who was elated to learn that a Sunshine Coach would be named in her dad's honour.

Donations can still be made online at variety.bc.ca or by texting the word KIDS to 45678 to make an automatic \$25 donation.

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About Variety - the Children's Charity of BC:

Variety - the Children's Charity of BC steps in where health care ends providing direct help to children & youth with special needs province-wide. For over 55 years, Variety has ensured that children have the support to reach their full potential. Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$40 million in funding to families and organizations in communities across BC.

Variety's core grant areas range from adaptive, medical & mobility equipment to specialized therapies, educational support, mental wellness counselling and private autism & psychoeducational assessments. For information on how you can support Variety - the Children's Charity of BC, visit variety.bc.ca or call 604.320.0505.

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