

For immediate release

The Cole Foundation donates \$1.5 million in support of The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation

Montreal, Wednesday, March 18, 2009 — The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce that the Cole Foundation will be donating \$1.5 million in support of *The Best Care for Children* capital campaign. This very generous donation will be dedicated to the Pediatric Division of the McGill University Health Centre Research Institute, and more specifically, will be used to support the Penny Cole Laboratory.

The Cole Foundation and The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation have been working closely for many years. John (Jack) Cole, founder of the Cole Foundation, was the first Chairman of The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation Board. He remained Honourary Chair until he passed away, in 2004. Mr. Cole and his wife, Elsie, lost their daughter Penny, on her twentieth birthday. She had been diagnosed with leukemia at the age of twelve.

After the loss his beloved daughter, Jack Cole dedicated much of his time to The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. He founded the Penny Cole Laboratory for research into leukemia. Today, Dr. Nada Jabado heads this team of researchers. Jack Cole also founded a Chair in Hematology-Oncology at McGill University to benefit The Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute. The Chair is currently held by Dr. Janusz Rak. In recent years, with Chairman Barry Cole, the Cole Foundation has widened and reinforced its mandate to become a philanthropic leader in the field of research into leukemia.

"The Cole Foundation has been an important ally of The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation for many years. Its support will no doubt inspire others to help build a new, modern hospital and a state-of-the-art research institute for all sick children in Quebec," said Marc Courtois, Chairman of *The Best Care for Children* capital campaign.

The goal of *The Best Care for Children* capital campaign is to raise \$100 million to build the new Montreal Children's Hospital and its Research Institute. Construction is expected to start in 2010, on the Glen Campus. The McGill University Health Centre Research Institute recently received a \$100 million grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation for this construction project. This grant must be matched by an amount of \$50 million in private funds, to which the Cole Foundation gift will be applied.

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