

Press release
For immediate release

The Missing Children's Network and Canada Post Community Foundation Team-Up to Build Safer Communities for our Youth!

Montreal, October 3, 2019. The Missing Children's Network is proud to announce that Canada Post Community Foundation will support SHINE, a sexual exploitation prevention program with a generous donation of \$20,000. These funds will help the Missing Children's Network to empower 12,000 pre-teens in Quebec on the importance of developing healthy and egalitarian relationships, this keeping themselves safe, both on and offline.

The Missing Children's Network implemented SHINE in October 2017. To date, over 20,000 students have benefitted from this unique program. SHINE is available in both English and French and workshops are conducted throughout the province of Quebec, both on-site and via an electronic platform for schools located in remote areas of the province. SHINE is designed to help students build a positive self-image, recognize the components of healthy and egalitarian relationships and learn to set boundaries. We provide them with the tools and resources that help them develop effective communication skills and they learn the importance of respecting themselves and others.

"Every year, in Quebec, over 5,000 cases involving runaway youth are reported to law enforcement. One in every 3 runaways will fall victim to sexual exploitation," said Pina Arcamone, Director General of the Missing Children's Network. "Understanding the importance of saying NO and setting physical, emotional and virtual limits are key to preventing youth from falling victim to acts of aggression and exploitation. We are filled with gratitude towards Canada Post Community Foundation and thank them for helping us make a tangible difference in our community."

"Canada Post is proud to fund programs and services that make a difference in the lives of Canadian children and youth. Thanks to our retail employees and generous customers, the Canada Post Community Foundation is able to enrich the lives of thousands in communities across the country each year."

About the Missing Children's Network

Founded in 1985, the Missing Children's Network is the only non-profit organization in Quebec dedicated to the search for missing children and the prevention of their disappearance. Regardless of the reason for the disappearance, from runaways to parental or criminal abductions, the Missing Children's Network's team supports, assists and advises the families of missing children.

In addition, the team works closely with law enforcement, child welfare agencies and the media to find these children and bring them home safely. Since its inception, the Missing Children's Network has helped law enforcement to recover over 1,500 children, and has educated more than 200,000 students how to remain safe in their daily lives, both online and offline.

The Missing Children's Network is a front-line partner of the **AMBER Alert Program** in Quebec and a recognized partner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) **National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR)**.

About the Canada Post Community Foundation

The Canada Post Community Foundation for Children is committed to keep every child in Canada is happy, healthy and an integral part of the community that supports and cares for them. Its mission is to have a positive effect in the lives of children by supporting registered charities, school programs or local initiatives that benefit them. Since 2012, the Foundation has granted more than \$8 million to more than 780 organizations. To learn more about the Foundation, visit canadapost.ca/community.

-30-

Information:

Pina Arcamone
Director General
Tel.: 514 892-2280