



Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada  
Clubs Garçons et Filles du Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NEW REGINA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES, DOORS OPEN IN JANUARY**

### **Local club to provide enriching after-school programs for youth in North Central Regina**

*REGINA, SASK. – December 16, 2003* - His Worship Mayor, Pat Fiacco, participated in a special event held here today to announce the opening of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Regina and acknowledged the contributions of Sears Canada Inc. which provided \$50,000 in seed money through its community investment program, Sears Young Futures.

In officially announcing the formation of the club, Joe Daniels, project co-coordinator at the Regina Sports Council and President of the Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Clubs of Regina, pointed to the fact that the new club is addressing key after-school needs for youth identified in the recent North Central Community Partnership Report.

“The Boys and Girls Clubs of Regina were formed to provide all children and youth, regardless of their social and economic background, an opportunity to improve their quality of life,” he said. “We will focus on addressing the needs of children aged five to 14 and plan to offer programs in sports, arts and culture in the after-school period. Once we open our doors in January, we will work with the youth participants to fine-tune our programming so that they get exactly what they need and want.” He added that the club will provide homework tutoring and quiet time for school work.

Mayor Pat Fiacco thanked everyone who helped bring the Boys and Girls Clubs to Regina. “I spent a lot of my youth in North Central Regina and still have family living there. I know first hand how much this club will benefit the youth of the area,” the Mayor said. “The Boys and Girls Clubs of Regina aim to assist programming already in place in North Central and will provide a safe, interactive place for young people to go after school to learn and plan. We are thrilled this successful national initiative has taken flight in our city. I love Regina.”

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Regina’s mandate is to enhance programming in North Central Regina without duplicating existing services. “We intend to work in partnership with our colleagues at various agencies in our community to ensure the Boys and Girls Clubs assists in expanding the efforts of community development and youth services agencies currently active and involved in our neighbourhood,” Daniels explains.

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Initially, youth participants will come from the following schools: Albert Community School, Herchmer Community School, Sacred Heart Community School, Kitchener Community School and Wascana Community School. The club will expand as it can afford to and plans to launch a fund-raising campaign, seeking support from the city's business community.

The club's first Executive Director is Kim Sutherland, a key member of the team in establishing the Club. In 2002, Sutherland's contributions to the Regina community were recognized, receiving the Queen's Medal for Community Service in 2002.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading Canadian youth organization established in 1900. Its nationwide network of community-based clubs offers over 140,000 young people recreational, educational and social programs that promote healthy development and inspire children to realize their potential. See [www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com) for more information.

Sears Young Futures, the community investment program of Sears Canada Inc., supports organizations that provide enriching after-school programming that inspires children and youth to believe in themselves. Sears Canada has been a strong supporter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada for close to 40 years. The Sears Young Futures program also supports other youth-focused initiatives such as I Can Swim, 4-H and the Sears Ontario Drama Festival. Additional funds are raised through Sears in-store campaigns and customer donations of Sears Club Points. Sears Young Futures has donated more than \$13 million to non-profit organizations since its inception 10 years ago.

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