



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

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and Microsoft Canada among Winners of 2003 “New Spirit of Community” Partnership Award

Toronto, ON, April 15, 2003 – Imagine’s 2003 “New Spirit of Community” Partnerships Awards were announced last night by Chris Pinney, Director, Imagine and Michael Norris, Jury Chair and Vice Chairman, RBC Capital Markets, at a reception in Toronto during the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy’s Annual Symposium.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and Microsoft Canada were among five corporate and charitable partners to win top honours with Can Tech, a program that rolled out technology centres in over 95 per cent of Boys and Girls Clubs across the country.

“Through Can Tech, we are empowering Canada’s youth and helping them develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in today’s digital world,” said Pam Jolliffe, National Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. “We are thrilled that this program is making such a tangible difference in children’s lives, and that it has been so honoured by a jury of our peers.”

This year’s other winners are: CN and Safe Communities Foundation of Canada for *Pulling Together*; Petro-Canada and the Canadian Association of Food Banks for *thINK FOOD*; The Saint John Business Community and Local community organizations for *The Saint John Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative* and TELUS and The Because We Care Education Society of Alberta for *The TELUS Learning Connection*.

“The goal of this program was to provide meaningful access to technology, and provide these kids with the opportunity to use technology as a tool to expand their world -- and their opportunities,” said Frank Clegg, President, Microsoft Canada. “The opportunity for us to make this happen with the Boys and Girls Clubs has been extremely rewarding – as is being recognized along such a distinct group of leading organizations and their charitable partners.”

The jury for this year's awards was: Chair: Michael Norris, Deputy Chairman, RBC Capital Markets; Tim Brodhead, President and CEO, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation; John Cassaday, President and CEO, Corus Entertainment; Nancy Hughes-Anthony, President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Colleen Kelly, Executive Director, Volunteer Vancouver; Hilary Pearson, President, Philanthropic Foundations Canada and David Stewart-Patterson, Senior Vice President, Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

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Imagine's "New Spirit of Partnership" Awards were founded in 1996 to recognize and celebrate innovative and effective partnerships and programs created by companies and charitable organizations that are making a difference. For the past eight years, with the help of a jury composed of leaders from both the corporate and charitable sectors, Imagine has selected five winners and five honourable mentions that have made a contribution to any area of community need - from culture and social welfare, to community development and the environment. Imagine donates \$5,000 to the charitable partner in each winning program.

About Imagine

Launched in 1988, Imagine is a national leadership initiative to help build stronger Canadian Communities by encouraging increased business responsibility. Imagine sets benchmarks for corporate citizenship and philanthropy that help strengthen the contribution of business and its employees to community building. More than 585 companies have committed to give a minimum of 1% of their domestic pre-tax profit to charity, and to encourage employee giving and volunteering through the Imagine Caring Company program. This translates into over a billion dollars in increased support for the voluntary sector since Imagine began, making it one of the most world's most successful corporate citizenship initiatives. Imagine is an initiative of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. For more information, please visit www.imagine.ca.

About Microsoft Canada's I Can

Microsoft Canada's I Can Community Program vision is empowering Canadian children and youth to realize their potential through technology, learning, community and the support of its employees. Over 230,000 have been impacted by program since it was launched in February 2002. Microsoft Canada is a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation (Nasdaq "MSFT") the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. Visit www.microsoft.ca/ican for more details.

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