



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

For Immediate Release:

Can Tech National Program Delivers Technology to Boys and Girls Clubs Across Canada

More than 100,000 children will benefit from Microsoft Canada-led charitable initiative

Toronto, ON, April 17, 2002 – Boys and Girls Club members at 95 clubs across Canada will receive 400 fully-loaded computers over the next four months through Can Tech - a \$2.2 million program initiated and led by Microsoft Canada and supported by Future Shop. Can Tech will provide children and youth with access to the technology and tools they need to help realize their full potential. Officially launched today in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Can Tech will roll out across the country as Microsoft and Future Shop technicians visit Clubs, train Club staff and establish technology centres at 90 per cent of Boys and Girls Clubs in Canada.

“Through this program we are empowering Canada’s youth and helping them develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in today’s digital world,” said Bill Snowdon, National President, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. “With this infrastructure in place, we will be able to provide practical skills training for at least 200,000 children in the next five years.”

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada anticipates that these technology centres will attract 3,000 to 5,000 new members over the first year, and expect to be serving 15,000 kids per week in tech programs within two years.

“We believe that if children are given the resources they need, they can accomplish great things. The goal of this program is to provide meaningful access to technology and provide kids the opportunity to use technology as a tool to expand their world and their opportunities,” said Frank Clegg, President, Microsoft Canada. “This initiative is an extension of Microsoft Canada’s I Can community giving program and builds upon our strong partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada.”

Can Tech is funded by a \$2.2 million cash and software donation from Microsoft Canada. Each computer will be outfitted with Microsoft software including Windows XP Professional, Office XP Professional, Picture It! Publishing Platinum Edition, Encarta Reference Library and the Magic School Bus series. Future Shop will provide hardware in the form of 1.2 GHz Cicero computers complete with 128 MB SDRAM, 20 GB hard drive, 56 K modem, 16x DVDROM, integrated sound and video. Through these technology centres, Boys and Girls Club in Canada will have access to up-to date hardware and software for its members and operations.

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“The Can Tech initiative was a natural fit for Future Shop and an extension to our existing Future Leaders program with Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada,” said Kevin Layden, President and COO, Future Shop. “Community involvement is central to our culture and values and this program allows us to provide technology resources directly to youth in local communities across the country.”

Empowering children through technology is a key component of both Microsoft Canada’s and Future Shop’s community programs. Last year, Microsoft Canada developed Mission X – a web based children’s learning program designed to teach Boys and Girls Club members five core skills – creative expression, creative problem solving, computer skills, helping others and teamwork. This program was responsible for attracting over 1,500 new members and helped the clubs serve 8,000 kids per week in tech programs.

In addition to participating in the Can Tech program, for the second consecutive year Future Shop will award 55 Boys and Girls Club members from across Canada with post-secondary scholarships valued at \$3,000 each. This program - Future Leaders: Scholarships for Today’s Youth - demonstrates the organization’s commitment to helping Canadian youth gain access to education and resources.

UPS and Power Quest are also supporting Can Tech through the deployment of hardware and software to Clubs across Canada.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is one of Canada’s leading youth organizations, with over 100 community-based Clubs all dedicated to providing quality programs, services and support that promote the healthy growth and development of Canada’s young people. Member Clubs currently provide close to 150, 000 children and youth across Canada with programs and services that take a child-centered approach to skill and character development, in response to the individual needs of each community. Visit www.bgccan.com for more details.

About Microsoft Canada’s I Can

Microsoft Canada’s I Can Community Program is committed to enhancing the lives of young Canadians and their families through community initiatives focusing on technology and learning. I Can community charities include Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, The Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Ability Online — organizations who provide programs that offer life altering experiences, social enrichment and learning tools and a belief in the positive potential of every child. 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.

About Future Shop

Future Shop, a wholly owned subsidiary of Best Buy Co., Inc. (NYSE: BBY), is Canada's largest, fastest-growing national retailer and e-tailer of consumer electronic products for the digital age, with 95 stores and the nation's premier web store, at futureshop.ca. Future Shop and its 8,000 associates are committed to providing Canadians with expert service; the latest digital products such as DVD movies and wireless Internet devices; and a wide selection of televisions, computers, audio, music and appliances. For more information about Future Shop, visit the company's Web site at www.futureshop.ca.

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