



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

Microsoft®

**More than 200,000 Canadian youth to receive computer skills training
with \$1.75 million Microsoft grant**

*Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada to receive cash and software
to expand computer education programs across Canada*

Mississauga, ON, January 15, 2004 – Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is the first Canadian organization to receive a Microsoft *Unlimited Potential* (UP) grant, a new global initiative aimed at providing technology skills to under-privileged youth through community-based technology learning centers. In cash and software, the Boys and Girls Club donation is valued at approximately C\$1.75 million.

Over the next three years, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada will use the \$480,000 in funding and up to \$1.3 million in software to further develop technology training programs at Clubs across the country.

“We began implementing technology centres at 95 clubs in April 2002 thanks to a \$2.2 million donation from Microsoft Canada,” said Eric Burton, Director, National Program Services, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. “Because of today’s generous additional grant, this program will now be further developed and available in every Club across Canada. We hope to provide training for more than 200,000 children in the next three years through structured skill development programs and stimulating activities.”

Unlimited Potential was created by Microsoft Corporation to support community-based technology and learning centers that provide technology skills training for disadvantaged people. The initiative was formed to help narrow computer literacy skills gaps by providing better access to technology.

The company plans to commit more than \$USD1 billion worldwide to the initiative over the next five years. Earlier today, in addition to the Canadian announcement, Microsoft announced more than C\$14.3 million in cash and software donations to 73 non-profit organizations around the world.

“We were thrilled to learn that our friends at Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada were the recipients of the first UP grant in Canada and would have the chance to expand their technology centres to have an even greater impact on the lives of Canadian youth,” said Frank Clegg, President, Microsoft Canada Co. “We believe that if children are given the resources they need, they can accomplish great things. We’ve seen how successful the centres are and this grant will enable even more Canadian youth to have access to technology and training, providing them with the skills they need in today’s information economy.”

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About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading national youth organization. Established in 1900, the organization's 100 community-based clubs help Canadian children and youth achieve their full potential, by providing quality recreational, educational and social development programs that foster self-esteem, build skills and develop character. Clubs currently offer services to 150,000 children and youth in 429 communities nationwide. Club programs are developed in response to the needs of youth and families in each community. Please visit www.bgccan.com for more details.

About Microsoft Canada's Community Programs

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. Over the last two years, I Can has impacted the lives of over 230,000 children through specially designed community programs, financial assistance, and software and solutions support. 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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