



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada  
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada

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**Microsoft®**

## Microsoft Canada grant helps Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada expand national technology learning program with support from Future Shop

*200,000 children and youth will benefit from \$2 million grant for CanTech digital literacy program*

**Mississauga, ON – April 21, 2008** – Today Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) received help from Microsoft Canada to expand its largest national technology learning program called CanTech. CanTech directly impacts 200,000 children and youth across Canada by providing access to technology tools and education to expand their academic, career and life opportunities. The CanTech program expansion was made possible through a \$2 million Microsoft Unlimited Potential Community Technology Skills (CTS) grant, which includes a cash donation and software to all BGCC locations over three years. Hardware and IT support is being provided by Future Shop for twelve of the BGCC locations. The national announcement was made at the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club in Toronto.

Through Microsoft Canada's support and CTS grant, Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada will have access to:

- Microsoft computer software at no cost
- Technology and science after-school and summer camps
- Internet safety training workshops
- Digital Arts programs and contests
- Youth IT Champions – empowering youth as technology mentors and coaches

As part of the broader expansion by the Boys and Girls Clubs, CanTech centres are being created at clubs in Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, East Dartmouth and Vancouver. Over the next three years, Future Shop will provide twelve Boys and Girls Clubs with upgraded or new technology centres including IT support, computers, printers and digital cameras.

"Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is thrilled with this increased support from Microsoft and Future Shop for the CanTech program," said Pam Jolliffe, President and CEO, BGCC. "It will enable thousands of young Canadians, many of whom otherwise don't have access or have very limited access to technology resources and programs, to gain technology literacy skills that are essential for doing well in our digitally driven world. Access to technology tools and education can boost a child's academic confidence and opportunities for learning. The expanded CanTech program will give this chance to even more children and youth."

"One of the most important lessons I have learned in my role is how the power of great relationships and technology can have a profound transformative impact both socially and economically," says Phil Sorgen, President, Microsoft Canada. "In working with organizations like Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, we have learned that providing youth with access to technology, whether it is new media or software, opens up an opportunity for tens of thousands of kids to explore new skills and tap into their unlimited potential. Microsoft is very proud to collaborate with Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and we look forward to the continued success of this program."

"Future Shop is extremely pleased to work with Microsoft and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada to build great learning facilities for our Future Leaders," said Todd Empey, Vice President of Future Shop. "We're committed to developing the potential of Canada's youth through access to technology and education. It's amazing to see the impact the Boys and Girls Clubs programs have to develop new skills and confidence as we've witnessed over our eight year partnership with the Clubs and through the hundreds of recipients of our Future Leaders Scholarship program. "

CanTech is a \$7 million national technology learning program for young people developed in 2001 by Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada with support from Microsoft's Unlimited Potential Community Technology Skills Program and Future Shop.

Microsoft's CTS grants are awarded to community organizations seeking to foster digital inclusion by providing access to the latest computer technologies and training to students and lifelong learners allowing them to achieve their fullest potential.

Through the CTS program, Microsoft is working to help a quarter-billion people around the world gain access to the technology, learning curriculum and skills training necessary to support employability and foster economic development in communities where they live. In Canada, over \$3 million has been given to the Community Technology Skills program since 2004. Organizations that have received grants in Canada include the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, Toronto's Frontier College's Beat the Street Program, Toronto's Dixon Hall, the Manitoba E-Association, the LOCUS project in Vancouver, JobStart in Toronto and the YMCA of Greater Toronto in support of the Rexdale Pro Tech Media Centre.

#### **About Microsoft Canada**

Established in 1985, Microsoft Canada Co. is the Canadian subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation (Nasdaq "MSFT"), the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. Microsoft Canada provides nationwide sales, marketing, consulting and local support services in both French and English. Microsoft Canada is headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario with MSN.CA offices located in Toronto and eight regional offices across the country. The company supports local communities across Canada by creating innovative technology and partnerships that help people realize their full potential.

#### **About Future Shop Canada**

With 131 stores across the country and the nation's premier web store ([www.futureshop.ca](http://www.futureshop.ca)), Burnaby, BC-based Future Shop is Canada's largest national retailer and e-tailer of consumer electronics. Future Shop's online Community Forum provides a place for technology enthusiasts to exchange ideas, tips and information related to consumer electronics and gain product expertise ([www.futureshopforums.ca](http://www.futureshopforums.ca)). As a proud corporate citizen and employer of over 10,000, Future Shop is committed to employee volunteerism and supporting non-profits organizations which are dedicated to transforming local youth into future leaders (see [www.futureshop.ca/community](http://www.futureshop.ca/community)).

#### **About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading provider of after-school programs to children and youth that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of 200,000 young people and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, dedicated, trained staff and volunteers offer programs in physical recreation, technology, the arts, personal growth and more. Many clubs also provide meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other supports to children, youth and families at risk.

Each club creates a safe, supportive environment where children and youth experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential, for over 100 years. To learn more, visit [www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com).

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