

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lester B. Pearson School Board joins forces with Free The Children empowering Quebec youth to make a difference

Dorval, QC., (June 30, 2009) – Quebec’s largest English speaking school board is thrilled to announce their latest partnership with children’s charity, Free The Children, the largest network of children helping children through education. The partnership represents the first school board in Quebec to work with the organization. This joint venture takes effect July 1st, 2009 through June 30th, 2012 providing students with leadership skills to become highly engaged through local and international volunteer initiatives.

In the beginning the program’s focal point will engage Quebec students on Free The Children’s Adopt a Village campaign. The goal of all programming is to provide youth with training that, in turn, can be applied to local and international initiatives. “We believe that youth leadership is the key to achieving a generation of committed and socially active young people,” says Marc Kielburger, Co-Founder, Free The Children. “We know Lester B. Pearson students and staff have a history of involvement in charitable activities both locally and internationally and we’re delighted to engage them through Free The Children leadership programming.”

“We are extremely proud of the association of a number of our schools with Free the Children and look forward to an expanding partnership as a result of this initiative” says, Robert Mills, Director General of the Lester B. Pearson School Board. “We take immense pride in being the first school board in Quebec to enter into such an agreement and look forward to further empowering our youth at both local and international levels.

Board Chairman Marcus Tabachnick added “This agreement fits well with our Mission Statement; the community’s expressed desire for a global view and opportunities; and our Strategic Plan to provide all students with the widest of range of opportunities for

personal and social growth. Free the Children will offer our schools yet another option for student, and staff, development”.

About Lester B. Pearson School Board

The Lester B. Pearson School Board is an English school board serving more than 30,000 students and staff in 60 schools, adult and vocational centers, an International Language Center, and an Administrative Center on a territory from Verdun westward to the Ontario border. The Lester B. Pearson School Board is recognized locally, nationally and internationally as a progressive and innovative public education institution pioneering a model of inclusive education, an acclaimed International Studies Program and as the first board in Quebec to pilot a universally-available half-day Kindergarten program for 4 year olds.

About Free The Children

Free The Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in our innovative education and development programs in 45 countries. Founded in 1995 by international child rights activist Craig Kielburger, Free The Children has a proven track record of success. The organization has received the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (also known as the Children's Nobel Prize), the Human Rights Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, and has formed successful partnerships with leading school boards and Oprah's Angel Network.

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