



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS FESTIVAL
MORE THAN 850 PEOPLE GIVE THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT
TO SPECIAL ATHLETES**

Montreal, May 27, 2010 – Tonight at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, more than 850 guests from the business and sports world will take part in the 13th edition of the Special Olympics Festival, a fundraising activity to benefit the sport development and social inclusion of 4,000 Special Olympics Québec athletes living with an intellectual disability.

This exceptional evening is organized under the honorary presidency of Mr. Normand Blouin, Senior Vice-President of The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited.

A total of 37 athletes from the world of amateur and professional sports have confirmed their presence, such as olympians Alexandre Bilodeau, Jennifer Heil, Pierre-Alexandre Rousseau, Tania Vicent, Nathalie Lambert, the tennis player Stéphanie Dubois, the beach volleyball players Annie Martin et Marie-André Lessard, some members of the Canadiens Alumni such as Marc Bureau, Gaston Gingras, Réjean Houle, Patrick Poulin, Robert Rousseau and Mario Tremblay, Alouettes Alumni's Steve Charbonneau, Pierre Vercheval, Peter Dalla Riva and the CEO Larry Smith as well as the players from the Montreal Impact, Adam Braz, Patrick Leduc and Rocco Placentino.

Annie Pelletier, patron of the SOQ movement for the last 13 years will also attend the Festival with 20 Special Olympics athletes.

All these sports celebrities will be available for live interviews during the cocktail from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

During the dinner, a silent auction will be held including more than 200 items such as an exclusive selection of Bordeaux wines, sports and music items, and numerous gift packages of all kinds.

The evening will end with a spectacular live auction. A total of 13 extraordinary packages will be offered as well as a unique chance to attend the 2011 GRAMMY Awards in Los Angeles, VIP seating to experience the Grand Prix du Canada and NASCAR 2010, an exceptional Tour of France's or Italy's great wine estates as well as a package including regular season tickets for the Canadiens, the Alouettes and Montreal Impact.

The Special Olympics Festival is the main source of funding for Special Olympics Québec. Year after year, since 1998, this event has raised yearly around half a million dollars net.

The Special Olympics Festival owes its success to the generous support of several business partners such as The **Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited, Forzani Group Ltd., Hydro-Québec** and many others.

About Special Olympics Québec

Over 90% of its funding comes from generous corporate and private citizens. Thanks to their support, Special Olympics Québec provides nearly 4 000 special athletes throughout Québec with training programs and a competition network the whole year round. Sports programs are designed to improve their physical fitness and self-esteem and foster their integration into society.
www.specialolympicsquebec.qc.ca

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