



Keeping families close



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **McHAPPY DAY GUESTS RAISE OVER \$104,000!**

*One-day fundraiser will help hundreds of families supported by RMHC Newfoundland and Labrador and other children's charities this year!*

**(St. John's, NL - May 4, 2018)** – On Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, McDonald's restaurants, guests and local communities helped raise more than **\$104,000** in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC NL) Newfoundland and Labrador and other children's charities. Funds raised on McHappy Day, a one-day fundraising event, will help the hundreds of families, supported by RMHC NL each year, stay together as their child receives medical treatment and care far from home.

"The outpouring of generosity and support from McDonald's guests and our local community on one of the happiest days of the year – McHappy Day! – continues to amaze us," said Annette Godsell, Executive Director, RMHC NL. "Every dollar raised will help us keep families with a sick child close – close to one another and close to the care their child needs. For families staying at our House, this can mean being able to share meals together, having movie nights as a family, or even being able to share a kiss goodnight. Simply put, we could not be there for our families without your support – thank you!"

The Ronald McDonald House in St. John's is one of 15 across Canada, provides a home for out-of-town families to stay at while their child receives treatment at a nearby hospital.

"Our family has had many stays at Ronald McDonald House since 2014 while our daughter, Ailish, was receiving treatment for cancer. It was certainly a bright light in a world that was surrounded by darkness. From the very first day during our tour, our family started to feel the sense that all was not lost and that things were going to be alright. Thank you for supporting Ronald McDonald House and families like ours." Rodney Slaney, St. Lawrence, NL

McHappy Day continues to play a large role in providing Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador with the funds needed to support our House and the families we serve. Since McHappy Day was first celebrated in 1977, McDonald's Canada, its franchisees and generous guests, have contributed nearly \$66 million for Ronald McDonald Houses and local Canadian children's charities.

Today, the need for support continues to grow and McDonald's continues to play a forever and sustaining role as our largest donor partner, alongside an extended and vibrant group of many community and corporate partners, as well as individual donors.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador** helps keep families with a sick or injured child close to each other and the care and resources they need, when they need it most. Open 24 hours a day/7 days a week, Ronald McDonald House features many common areas including a large kitchen, family room, television room, resource center, home office, children's play areas and laundry facilities. Ronald McDonald House is open to parents, siblings and at times, extended family members of children receiving medical treatment in St. John's. It draws on a large pool of committed volunteers who help families feel at home.

[www.RMHCNL.ca](http://www.RMHCNL.ca)

[www.facebook.com/rmhnl](http://www.facebook.com/rmhnl)

[www.twitter.com/OurHouseNL](http://www.twitter.com/OurHouseNL)

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Christine Morgan

Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador

Director, Development & Communications

Telephone: 709-738-0000 Cell: 709-725-3145

[christinemorgan@rmhcnl.ca](mailto:christinemorgan@rmhcnl.ca)



[www.facebook.com/rmhnl](http://www.facebook.com/rmhnl)



[@OurHouseNL](https://twitter.com/OurHouseNL)



Ailish Slaney and her sister Abby  
at McHappy Day



The Slaney Family

**131 nights at RMHC NL**