



Keeping families close

For Immediate Release

CASTLE BUILDING CENTRES/NOTRE DAME AGENCIES Adopt a Room at Ronald McDonald House

(February 23, 2021, St. John's, NL) – Notre Dame Agencies together with Castle Building Centres announced the adoption of a **Family Suite** today at Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador (RMHC NL) in memory of **Mr. Cluny Sheppard**, former chairman of Notre Dame Castle Building Centres. Adopting a room at RMHC NL provides individuals, organizations and corporations with the opportunity to provide the most caring and practical support to families during an incredibly stressful time. When families find themselves traveling far from home so their child can receive medical care in St. John's, having the programs and services at RMHC NL provides a sense of security to parents who know they will be able to stay close to their sick or injured child.

The Adopt-a-Room program ensures that common areas and family suites at RMHC NL are beautifully kept, and maintained. Just prior to the announcement today Castle Building Centres committed \$10,000 to Ronald McDonald House, with Notre Dame Agencies agreeing to financially support this Adopt a Room partnership into the foreseeable future.

Notre Dame Agencies was incorporated in 1952 and acquired by Cluny Sheppard in 1975. An essential member of his team from the beginning, is wife Golda. Cluny Sheppard was Chairman of the Board. His four daughters now live and breathe the business and carry on his entrepreneurial spirit: **Tina Belbin as President; Jennifer Welsh as Vice President Building Supply Division; Ann Marie Hodder as Vice President Furniture & Recreation Division; and Lorna Sargent as Vice President Operations.**

The board of directors of Notre Dame Agencies that include Mr. Sheppard's four daughters stated that, "We are honored to adopt a room at Ronald McDonald house in memory of Cluny Sheppard, Chairman of Notre Dame Castle Building Centres. Our family understands firsthand the overwhelming emotional burden when facing illness with a young child. Cluny Sheppard was not only a respected business owner in Newfoundland and Labrador, he was also a dedicated family man. He was often quoted as saying "family is everything". With our support of this room, we hope to help ease this burden for families who have to travel from different areas of the province for specialized care."

“Cluny was a true gentleman who made those around him better. For those who crossed his path, it was a privilege to engage with a man of such integrity, passion for business and absolute commitment to family.” Said Ken Jenkins, President, Castle Building Centres Group Ltd.

While current public health restrictions limited the ability for representatives from Castle Building Centres Group, Notre Dame Agencies and Mr. Sheppard's family to be present at Ronald McDonald House for the unveiling of their family suite, the family currently occupying the room expressed their sincere gratitude for this outstanding support.

10-month-old William Chaulk of Deer Lake has **Fanconi Syndrome**, which is a rare disorder of kidney tubule function. A later diagnosis of **Cystinosis** was discovered to have caused the initial damage to his kidneys. This is a rare disease that affects only 2000 people in the world. The disease causes a build up of cysteine in cells that can cause damage to many organs and tissues of the body, if left untreated. While there is no cure, there is treatment to slow down this disease and the need for a future kidney transplant. For the Chaulk Family, this was going to be a challenging road ahead in another city far from home and they are very grateful to have been introduced to the programs and services at Ronald McDonald House.

“Ronald McDonald House is helping us get through these trying times. The home cooked meals and baked goods has been so appreciated. Having laundry facilities close by has been a lifesaver. It's the small things that matter the most during difficult times and Ronald McDonald House is all about the little things. It is so nice to interact with other families and share stories. They know exactly what we are going through. We can be there for each other and provide support. The volunteers and staff are angels on earth. They interact with all families and provide a sense of home and comfort. Thank you for everyone that supports Ronald McDonald House.”, Jo-Ellen Chaulk, William Chaulk's Grandmother

Since opening in 2012, Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador has provided more than 36,000 nights of comfort and care to more than 1500 families, saving families with a sick or injured child an estimated \$7.6M!

Notre Dame Agencies (NDA) and their over 100 employees are part of the fabric of most communities across Newfoundland and Labrador with ten Castle Building Centres locations plus an ecommerce store, two Recreation Centres, seven Home Furnishing Centres, one Truss manufacturing plant, and one land development company.

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

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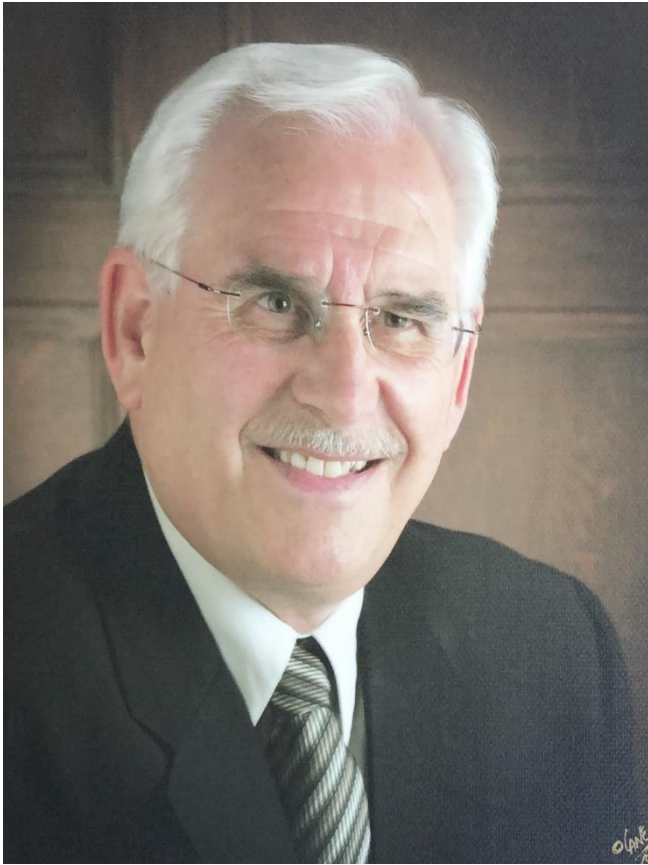
Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador

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Photos attached



Mr. Cluny Sheppard along with photos for their newly adopted Family Suite at RMHC NL



Kaley Chaulk with her 10-month-old son William
Current guests of Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador



William Chaulk and his family at RMHC

L-R: Kaley (his mom), Ryan (his grandfather), Kate (his Aunt) and Jo-Ellen (his grandmother)