



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Newfoundland & Labrador

For Immediate Release

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador Officially opens its Family Time Park

(June 8, 2023 St. John's, NL) – Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador (RMHC NL) is pleased to announce today, along with many volunteers, donors and families, it has officially completed the reconstruction and development of its outdoor space into what will now be known as Family Time Park. This new space will give sick or injured children a safe and accessible space to play and enjoy much needed outdoor family time.

The Family Time Park project included the development of an accessible and fenced outdoor area surrounding the Ronald McDonald House with improvements such as fencing, entrance gate, bbq/patio area, and most importantly a children's playground with rubber play surface, two bay accessible swing set, and nature-based play features.

"I think the Family Time Park is going to be an amazing place for our families at Ronald McDonald House to make memories for years to come" said Angie Brown, RMHC NL Board Chair. "Providing a fun, accessible and secure space for our families to interact in a park setting, will help us enhance the experience for all sick or injured children and their families that need the Ronald McDonald House."

Nature and the outdoors have always been associated with positive energy, wellness and a place to enhance overall mental health. Spending time and being physically active in nature has been proven to promote a healthy lifestyle and improve overall well-being. Spending time outside helps us recover from the effects of stress and our everyday worries. The positive physical and mental benefits of spending time outdoors align perfectly with the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities and the goal of supporting and caring for sick or injured children and their families.

Additional Quotes

Ashley Renouf of Cape St. George has spent 279 nights at Ronald McDonald House when her son Ryder is fighting leukemia. "My kids love being outside. Prior to Ryders diagnosis we were a very active outdoors family. So being able to have a space for the kids to burn their energy will be amazing. They have also made some friends and even had a soccer game or two with some other families! It gives the kids time to unwind and just be kids, to let them forget about everything else going on. The Family Time Park is a great distraction for everyone. Children love to play, even with health limitations. Being able to accommodate those limitations gives children and families that sense of normalcy while letting them explore and just be a kid! It brings families together during stressful times. Even on Ryders worst days, he enjoys going outside to the Family Time Park for some fun!"

“Strong, vibrant communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are critical to building a resilient, inclusive economy and a brighter future for Canadians. Investing in spaces like Ronald McDonald House’s outdoor common area in St. John’s gives children and their families a safe, welcoming place to come together.”

- ***The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages and Minister responsible for ACOA***

“Ronald McDonald House in St. John’s provides a safe and positive place for families with sick children going through challenging times. With this investment from the Government of Canada, we are helping create an accessible, fun outdoor area for children and families from across the province. This new space will be something to brighten the days of the people who, for a point in time, call this place home.” ***Joanne Thompson, Member of Parliament for St. John’s East.***

“IOC has been a proud supporter of the Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador since its inception. Supporting a family during a child’s sickness is such an important mission for our community, and many of our employees have benefitted from the services of the Ronald McDonald House over the last ten years. This is why we are very pleased to donate through the IOC Together We Care Community Investment Program for the development of an accessible outdoor family park at Ronald McDonald House. This new space will further support the overall wellness and mental health of family members during difficult times,” **said Mike McCann, CEO & President of IOC.**

"Through our partnership with Ronald McDonald House over the past 10 years, we have seen first-hand the positive impact that this home-away-from-home provides to families from our province," **said Jennifer Williams, President and CEO of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.** "The addition of the Family Time Park will provide a much-needed space where families can spend time together outside in a safe and accessible environment, and that's why Hydro and our employees are honoured to support Ronald McDonald House as they make the park a reality."

“To have a playground for the families and the children who are healthy as well as the children that are struggling with their illness is very important in any kind of treatment of an illness. The Family Time Park is a very peaceful place. We are very proud to support Ronald McDonald House with this important project.” **Elizabeth Randell, Director, Locke’s Electrical Limited.**

To learn more about Ronald McDonald House and its programs and services, visit www.RMHCNL.ca

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. While each Ronald McDonald House shares a common mission, each house is independently governed by a Board of Directors with its own charitable registration number. Since opening in 2012, Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador have accommodated more than 1700 families during 46,000 nights dealing with their child’s illness far from home. It is estimated that RMHC NL saved these families more than \$8.4M.

www.RMHCNL.ca

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Charitable Registration Number: 85050 2865 RR 0001

FAMILY TIME PARK



It's Time for Family Time Park – Thank you Video
[Watch HERE](#)











Welcome
Bienvenue

FAMILY TIME
PARK

Thank You - Merci

Gift of Family Don de Famille	Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency (ACOA) Agence de promotion économique du Canada atlantique (APECA) Rio Floto INC
Gift of Togetherness Don de Solidarité	Locker's Electrical Limited Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro
Gift of Enjoyment Don de Plaisir	BMO Financial Group Brian and Judean Tobin Family Foundation MFI Group McDonald's NL Owners/Operators
Gift of Nature Don de la Nature	Basil Debbin Family Foundation Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Wickman Automotive Group VOCH Care Foundation
Gift of Hope Don d'Espoir	Atlantic Star Foundation (Trade to Rescue) Ken and Lorretta Scott RTV/GZFSA RBC Foundation The R.D. Piggy Family Foundation



4-year-old Ryder Renouf of Cape St. John's – 279 nights at RMHC NL



MP Joanne Thompson

