



For Immediate Release

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IWK celebrates Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada for giving \$3.5 million over 17 years

Halifax, NS—Today, the IWK Foundation recognized and celebrated the Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada (GFAC) for raising more than \$3.5 million in support of the IWK Health Centre over the past 17 years. This incredible generosity has had a tremendous impact on patient and family care at the IWK by supporting many of the Health Centre's top priority needs.

"It's an honour to be at the IWK today to see firsthand how our members and partners have made a difference to the health and well-being of our region's children," said Jana Sobey, chair, Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada. "The mission of our foundation is to give kids the best start. We work closely with grocery industry partners to raise money for children's hospitals and breakfast programs in Atlantic Canada."

One of the patients who has benefited from the GFAC's support is Henry Devoe. Recently born at 33 weeks gestation, Henry is currently receiving care in the IWK's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and is growing stronger in an incubator that was purchased by the GFAC.

"When my son was born so early, I was confident that I would be in good hands at the IWK," says Henry's mom, Stacey Devoe. "While it was an extremely frightening time, the staff in the NICU not only cared for my baby but my family as well. We are very fortunate to have the IWK in the Maritimes and donors like the Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada who support it."

In addition to buying a fleet of incubators, the GFAC has also supported *Telehealth*[®] – technology that allows healthcare professionals to meet with each other, or patient families, remotely through video-conferencing. In addition, they have purchased ultrasound equipment for the IWK's diagnostic imaging department and a hematology analyzer for the pathology lab. Most recently, funds from the GFAC have supported the IWK's Translating Research into Care (TRIC) grant program, which partners clinicians with administrative staff with a goal of implementing better care at the bedside.

"I always describe the IWK as the place the community built. It's the generosity of donors, like the Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada, that have made our Health Centre the national centre of excellence it is today," said Jennifer Gillivan, president & CEO, IWK Foundation. "We are extremely grateful to members of the foundation, and the retailers, manufacturers, brokers and other food industry partners that come together each year in support of the IWK."

About the IWK Foundation

The IWK Foundation is a champion of excellence in women's and children's health and medicine and works in partnership with the IWK Health Centre to support their vision of providing quality care to women, children, youth and families in the Maritime Provinces and beyond. Our donors are passionately committed to making a difference for Maritime families, contributing over \$13 million to the most urgent care priorities at the IWK last year. Funds raised also support the IWK's global leadership in research and knowledge sharing, which in turn improves lives worldwide. For more information, visit www.iwkfoundation.org.

About the IWK Health Centre

The IWK Health Centre is the Maritime region's leading health care and research centre dedicated to the well-being of women, children, youth and families. In addition to providing highly specialized and complex care, the IWK provides certain primary care services and is a strong advocate for the health of families. The IWK is a global leader in research and knowledge sharing, and a partner in educating the next generation of health professionals. Visit www.iwk.nshealth.ca.

Photo caption:

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