



News Release

For immediate release

Hospital of "Firsts" Needs Public Support to Sustain Breakthrough Research and Lifesaving Innovation Levels

SickKids Lottery is in Early Bird Countdown But Need is Still High

TORONTO, May 18, 2006 – Time is running out for caring individuals across Ontario to be among the "first" to win one of 28,000 prizes in SickKids Lottery to support vital research and maintain the hospital's legacy of breakthrough discovery "firsts."

From the first to link maternal folic acid intake with a decrease in neuroblastoma, a deadly childhood cancer – to the first safe transplant of an infant heart with mismatched donor and recipient blood types – to the first to identify two genes for Lafora disease, an often fatal form of adolescent-onset epilepsy – SickKids leads a legacy of firsts, several since 2000, but needs public support to continue.

SickKids Foundation is quickly approaching its Lottery Early Bird Deadline of midnight, June 1st, which offers ticket buyers the chance to win an early bird prize of cash and cars. Grand prizes include three prizes of one million dollars and more car choices than any other lottery. Odds of winning are one in seven and because the proceeds fund breakthrough research, you win just by playing.

"By purchasing a Lottery ticket, you support critical research at SickKids; research that makes a difference in the lives of children across the province and worldwide," says Paula Roberts, Vice-President, Strategic Communications, SickKids Foundation. "Funds from the lottery go toward cutting edge facilities, the latest equipment and helping ensure that SickKids can continue to attract leading scientists and doctors from around the world."

Tickets for the SickKids Lottery cost \$100 each or \$250 for a bundle of three and are available by calling toll-free 1-877-232-KIDS (5437) or in person at SickKids. The phone lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Ticket order forms and a full list of prizes are also available at www.SickKidsLottery.com. Tickets must be purchased by midnight June 1, 2006 to be eligible for the Early Bird Prize.



About SickKids Foundation:

SickKids Foundation was established in 1972. Its mission is to inspire its communities to invest in health and scientific advances to improve the lives of children and their families in Canada and around the world. Its vision: "Healthier children. A better world." The Foundation, with its National Grants Program, is the largest non-governmental granting agency in the area of child health in Canada.

For more information please visit www.SickKidsfoundation.com.

For more information, a fact sheet of SickKids research "firsts" since 2000 or stories about patients in your area, please contact:

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