



Press Release

For immediate release
July 3rd, 2007

Brookfield Power donates \$183,000 for Autism (Également disponible en français)

City of Ottawa – This year, the fundraising goal set by **Brookfield Power** for its 3rd annual Golf Omnium was \$125,000... well below the amount it finally distributed to two local organizations. Trait d'Union Outaouais inc. and La Société franco-ontarienne de l'autisme, organizations supporting persons with autism and their families, shared **\$183,000** on Friday, June 15th during the celebrations held at Le Château Montebello ! Representatives of these two organizations could barely contain their emotions while accepting their respective cheques in the amount of \$91,500... the biggest donation they had ever received !

Brookfield Power comprises the power generating, transmission, distribution and marketing operations of Brookfield Asset Management Inc. Brookfield Power has developed and successfully operated hydroelectric power facilities for almost 100 years. Brookfield Power's portfolio of assets owned or under management comprise over 3,800 megawatts of capacity and include over 140 hydroelectric power generating stations located on over 50 river systems, a pumped storage facility, a wind farm and two thermal plants. Brookfield Asset Management Inc., focused on property, power and infrastructure assets, has over US\$70 billion of assets under management and is co-listed on the New York and Toronto Stock Exchanges under the symbol BAM.

This generous donation by Brookfield Power will make a dream come true for Trait d'Union Outaouais inc. on its 20th anniversary : the purchase of a building which will allow for relocation of its programs into accommodations that will be better suited to the needs of autistic children and youth that they serve. Eventually, this acquisition will free up dollars presently invested in rent so that the organization can offer more services. « *The feasibility of this project is now assured given the possibility of making the initial investment with the help of this large donation* » confirmed François Labrie, président of TUOI and father of two autistic teenagers. TUOI, a regional community-based organization, offers services that promote social integration for children and youth aged 0-21 with a pervasive development disorder and supports their family and community (www.traidunionoutaouais.com).

On the other hand, La Société franco-ontarienne de l'autisme supports French-speaking families and autistic persons in the Ottawa area. Only three days after this announcement, parents were already put to the task of identifying actions that they consider a priority for the coming year. They wish to see, among other things, La Société franco-ontarienne de l'autisme supporting professional development relating to autism given the major needs at this level, increasing access to information through an interactive web site, offering direct respite support to families during evenings and weekends, and promoting greater participation and inclusion of families and persons with developmental disabilities within their communities through social activities.

Today, members of the family are still the sole source of support for nearly 70% of persons with an intellectual or a developmental disability today in Ontario. This number increases to 80% when children grow into adulthood. The rate at which autism has been diagnosed has increased considerably over the last five years. Recent studies have also shown that these families suffer from the highest level of parental stress. In 2004, the *Centre for Disease Control* already stated that autism and other developmental disabilities touched one person in one hundred and sixty-six (1/166).

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