



Coalition of Persons with Disabilities

Newfoundland and Labrador

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Canada Progress Club St. John's brings Accessible Grocery Carts to Sobeys, Dominion, Colemans, & Walmart

(St. John's) The Canadian Progress Club St. John's (@CPCSJ) has partnered with The Coalition of Persons with Disabilities –NL (COD-NL) on bringing accessible shopping carts to St. John's. A press conference will be held at the E.B. Foran Room at City Hall on Friday September 11 at 1:00pm. In attendance will be Mayor Dennis O'Keefe, and representatives from Sobeys, Dominion, Coleman's, Walmart, CPCSJ, and COD-NL

Caroline's Cart was started by Drew Ann Long for her daughter Caroline who was a young girl with a disability. It provides parents and caregivers a viable option to transport a child through a store while grocery shopping, without having the task of having to maneuver a traditional grocery cart and a wheelchair

Canadian Progress Club St. John's started this initiative from a news story from Edmonton – "Save on Foods & Elks Club brings Caroline's Cart to AB".

Ralph Chiarot, Member of CPCSJ, was inspired when he saw this news story and realized the importance of this to not only the parents but to children. He states "I saw this as a very important investment in inclusion for the child and the family as a whole, it's not about the cost of a cart. It is about the ability to shop and have your child with a disability included in a regular everyday activity such as grocery shopping". CPCSJ approached Sobeys, Dominion, Colemans & Walmart stores and offered to share the costs of this cart. The grocery store district managers were eager to take part and stated that they were getting requests from families for accessible shopping carts.

Kelly White, Executive Director for COD-NL was excited when the CPCSJ contacted the Coalition to discuss a partnership on moving forward with this initiative. She states "As an organization that supports awareness on cross-disability issues in our province, we are very pleased to see CPCSJ showing interest in accessibility and full inclusion in our communities. With research showing over 75 000 citizens in our province reporting limited participation due to disability the need to raise awareness about accessibility and inclusion is vital. And this responsibility does not solely lie with organizations like ours but to all citizens to do their part in understanding, promoting and supporting inclusion".

The Canadian Progress Club is a dynamic fellowship of charitable-minded Canadians who are passionate and committed to strengthening our communities through hands-on service and fundraising, to benefit those in need. The St. John's Chapter was formed in 1986, and has over 40 active members and have given more than \$2.0m in donations to the Vera Perlin Society and Special Olympics NL.

Operating at the provincial and local levels, COD-NL is an organization concerned with all persons with disabilities, promoting their rights and raising public awareness of their needs. COD-NL is proactive, working to improve legislation and services at all government levels and networking with national and regional groups to support independence and foster positive self-concept of its members

Quick Facts

- The Canadian Progress Club – St. John's partnered with Sobeys, Dominion, Colemans, & Walmart to split the cost of the \$1,000 cart.
- Michele White, Front Store Manager from Sobeys Kelsey Drive worked with a family to bring the first Caroline's Cart to St. John's
- Approximately 70 carts have been purchased in Canada over the past several years
- St. John's would be the first city in Canada to have accessible grocery carts at all major grocery banners
- CPCSJ started this initiative from a news story from Edmonton - Save On Foods & Elks Club bring Caroline's Cart to AB
- Both Dominion, Sobeys, Colemans & Walmart stated that they are receiving requests from the public for this type of accessible grocery cart
- Caroline's cart is three times the cost of a regular grocery cart

For media inquiries:

Kelly White
Executive Director
COD-NL
722-7011, kwhite@codnl.ca

Ralph Chiarot
Grocery Cart Project Chair
Canadian Progress Club, St. John's (@CPCSJ)
693-6176