



**FOUNDING PARTNER OF WEST ISLAND COMMUNITY SHARES REACHES IMPORTANT MILESTONE**

*Pfizer Canada reaches lifetime donation of \$3 million in support of its community*

**WEST ISLAND COMMUNITY SHARES ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD PRESIDENT & BOARD DIRECTORS**

*Frederica Jones, Regional Vice-President at BMO Financial Group, named new Board President*

**AFTER TWO YEAR HIATUS, THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST RETURNS**

*Media, partners & donors are invited on Friday, September 9, 7:30 – 9:30*

**Pointe-Claire, September 8, 2022** – The board of directors of West Island Community Shares held their annual general meeting last night providing an update on the organisation’s activities. In addition to announcing that \$2.6M was distributed to more than 40 community organisations over the past two years of the pandemic – of which \$1.2M was distributed this past year alone – Community Shares proudly announced that their founding partner, Pfizer Canada, reached a lifetime donation of \$3 million.

“As one of West Island Community Shares’ founding partners, Pfizer Canada has been generously supporting our mission since our creation back in 1998. More than simply monetary contributions, Pfizer Canada’s commitment towards our community comes in many forms. Pfizer’s corporate culture and community involvement not only stands the test of time, but Pfizer leads the way encouraging other businesses to get involved and make a difference in the lives of so many West Islanders,” said Sophie McCann, Executive Director, West Island Community Shares.

“Equity is one of the four Pfizer values and we firmly believe that it is important to give back to the communities in which we live and work,” said Najah Sampson, President, Pfizer Canada. “West Island Community Shares has been an outstanding pillar of this community for almost 25 years, and we are incredibly proud to have partnered with them since day one.”

The support of partners and donors remains critical as vulnerable West Islanders make their way out of the pandemic. Although everyone was impacted in some shape or form, the most vulnerable members of society have been the hardest hit, and unfortunately, continue to struggle with the recent surge in inflation. Now more than ever, Community Shares must be ready to face the dichotomy seen between the slowdown in donations and the increase in demand for services.

After completing his two-year term as Board President, Me Jean-René Paquette passed the baton to Frederica Jones, Regional Vice-President at BMO Financial Group, who becomes the next Board President of West Island Community Shares, and welcomed three new board directors.

“I’m really excited about this great opportunity and look forward to the next two years. It is inspiring to see how all directors come together at the board level with one common goal; mobilizing the resources around us to build a stronger West Island community,” said Frederica Jones, Vice-President, BMO Financial Group, and new Board President of West Island Community Shares.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- West Island Community Shares distribute \$2.6M over the two years of the pandemic.
- Pfizer Canada, a founding partner of Community Shares, reaches lifetime donation of \$3 million in support of its community.
- Frederica Jones, Regional Vice-President, BMO Financial Group has been appointed new Board President of West Island Community Shares.
- Xavier Lalonde, Associate Vice-President, Commercial Banking, National Bank, has been appointed Board Director
- Sara Lande, Counsel, Dorel Industries, has been appointed Board Director
- Drew Wawin, Vice-President, TD Canada Trust, has been appointed Board Director

#### **INVITATION Community Breakfast presented by Desjardins Ouest-de-l’Île**

The media is invited to attend our annual Community Breakfast presented by Desjardins Ouest-de-l’Île, tomorrow, Friday, September 9 between 7:30-9:30 at Les 3 Brasseurs, 46A Brunswick Boulevard, Pointe-Claire to meet Sophie, Frederica, and several board members who will be onsite serving breakfast to close to 300 guests, including representatives from many of our community groups.

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#### **About West Island Community Shares**

West Island Community Shares is a unique charitable organization dedicated to building a strong, inclusive, peaceful and healthy community. We do this by raising crucial funds for more than 40 local community groups which focus on developing strong and resilient children, creating bridges to support vulnerable populations, empowering women to reach their full potential, and providing basic necessities to West Islanders in need. For more information: [CommunityShares.ca](http://CommunityShares.ca).

#### **For more information:**

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