



## CHOICES MARKETS TO HOST FUNDRAISER TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR AUTISM SPEAKS CANADA

**VANCOUVER, B.C.** (July 29, 2015) – Choices Markets will host its 3<sup>nd</sup> annual Puzzle Piece Campaign from August 1-11 in eight of its British Columbia stores. During the campaign, stores across the province will raise funds through the sale and purchase of puzzle pieces. There will also be charity barbecues on August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>. All contributions will go directly to Autism Speaks Canada to fund research, advocacy and community programs, as well as provide support for families across Canada that are impacted by autism spectrum disorder.

Autism Speaks Canada, is part of North America's largest autism science and advocacy organization working both locally and nationally, to increase awareness about autism spectrum disorder, fund autism research and family services, and advocate for the needs of individuals with autism and their families in British Columbia and across all of Canada.

For more information, please visit www.choicesmarkets.com/news or call 604-629-9298.

For more information about Autism Speaks Canada, please visit <u>www.autismspeaks.ca</u> or call 1-888-362-6227.

## **About Autism**

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are general terms used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders caused by a combination of genetic and environmental influences. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by communication difficulties, social and behavioural challenges, as well as repetitive behaviours. An estimated 1 in 68 children is on the autism spectrum – a 100% increase in the last decade.

## **About Autism Speaks and Autism Speaks Canada**

Autism Speaks, along with Autism Speaks Canada, is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. Autism Speaks Canada is committed to building the capacity for research and services across the country; raising public awareness; and collaborating with other organizations to speak alongside the autism community. Since its inception, Autism Speaks and Autism Speaks Canada have invested over \$200 million into scientific research, \$9 million of which has been committed towards leading Canadian autism research. Since 2010, over \$2.5 million has been granted to organizations across Canada to increase their capacity to support individuals and families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism Speaks Canada is committed to raising the funds necessary to improve lives today and transform lives tomorrow across the autism spectrum and along the lifespan.

## **About Choices Markets**

With 9 stores and a gluten free bakery across Metro Vancouver and the Okanagan, BC, Choices Markets is Western Canada's largest local grocer of natural, organic and specialty foods. For more information visit www.choicesmarkets.com.