## For Immediate Release Growing Community Calls for Growing Grocer Choices Markets Announces Newest Location in North Vancouver

**North Vancouver, BC December 8, 2015** — For 25 years, community grocer Choices Markets has been earning its stripes as Western Canada's largest retailer of organic and specialty foods, so it's only natural that the family-run company open up its newest location in North Vancouver in late spring 2016.

In 1990, Choices Markets opened its flagship store in Kitsilano, aiming to provide the community with support for healthy living. The company became an industry leader, focusing on alternative food options like local, organic goods and hard-to-find items necessary for specialized diets. Going beyond food, Choices Markets' ownership also saw the importance of considering the community's needs as a whole. This lead to establishing a complimentary nutrition program and many community outreach initiatives that have grown steadily as the company expands.

"North Vancouver is a hub for active health-conscious community-minded citizens, and the population is definitely growing on the North Shore," states Ishkandar Ahmed, Choices Markets CEO. "We're seeing many young thriving families choosing to make North Vancouver their home," he says, "and, as a locally owned family grocer that specializes in alternative foods, we are thrilled to be able to serve them and continue to grow with this very unique community."

Set to open in late spring 2016, the newest Choices Markets will be located in Capilano Village, 801 Marine Drive near Fell Avenue, North Vancouver. It will be a 12,000 square feet operation and will continue to live up to the company brand by supporting small local producers; finding the highest quality ethically raised or sourced meat, poultry, seafood, produce, dairy and grocery items; providing complimentary trusted nutrition services; serving as a one-stop shop for foods for specialized diets; and stocking thousands of natural wellness products.

Choices Markets was founded in 1990 by brothers Wayne and Lloyd Lockhart, who later partnered with Salim Ahmed in 2000. The Choices Markets chain has 10 locations spanning Vancouver, Burnaby, South Surrey, Abbotsford and Kelowna and also includes a dedicated Gluten-Free Bakery in Vancouver and an industrial kitchen and bakery in South Burnaby. The North Vancouver location will be the company's 11<sup>th</sup> store.

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