



For Immediate Release

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Variety BC to Begin Funding Autism Assessments

(Burnaby, BC) – Variety - the Children’s Charity is pleased to announce that in addition to their core grant areas of mobility equipment, lifesaving medical supplies, specialized therapies, mental wellness counselling and educational programs, they will now be funding private autism assessments.

Currently here in BC, families who have children with autism can wait as long as two years for an autism assessment through the public system. Without an autism assessment resulting in a diagnosis, families with children under the age of 6 are unable to access the \$22,000 of government funding to support therapies. In many cases, Variety BC is stepping in to cover the cost of these therapies while families wait.

“We’re extremely excited as early intervention results in the best outcomes for children on the autism spectrum,” said Cally Wesson, Variety BC CEO. “With the lengthy waits in the public system, children are falling through the cracks and families aren’t getting the support or funding they need so to be able to help these kids will be transformational for families province-wide.”

Variety BC plans to begin funding private assessments effective immediately. To learn more, visit variety.bc.ca/grants or call 604.320.0505.

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About Variety - the Children’s Charity:

Variety - the Children’s Charity steps in where health care ends providing direct help to children with special needs in BC. For 55 years, Variety has ensured children have the support to reach their potential. Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$33 million in funding to families and organizations in communities all across the province.

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