

**Charles-Bruneau Challenge, Machu Picchu 2011:
A total of \$252,000 raised for pediatric cancer**

MONTREAL, JUNE 2, 2011 – Shortly after touching down at Montréal’s Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, **Pierre Bruneau** and nine of the climbers who took part in the Machu Picchu expedition received a warm round of applause when it was announced that they had raised a net total of \$252,000 in support of the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau. All of these proceeds will serve to finance major research projects in pediatric oncology.

Presented by **Bitumar/Sintra** and **UL Mutuel**, this expedition was inspired by the courage shown by all children with cancer. 8-year-old **François Sauvageau** was determined to be there for the climbers’ arrival: “I was happy the team brought a picture of me all the way to the top. I really encouraged them!” François has stage-4 neuroblastoma. He has undergone six rounds of chemotherapy, a dozen rounds of radiotherapy and two bone marrow transplants at the CHU Sainte-Justine’s Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau.

For Fondation spokesman **Pierre Bruneau**, it was important that the climbers meet François so that they, too, could see the determination that drives these exceptional children: “Thousands of children are fighting for their lives on a daily basis, and François is an admirable example. We want to support their fight and we believe that hope lies in the continued development of research. All of the climbers have shown exemplary generosity. These people have big hearts, and we can’t thank them enough.”

On May 25, 2011, the group of 15 climbers set out from the trailhead located at the 82-kilometre mark on the Cuzco-Machu Picchu railway. From there, they successfully hiked the 43 kilometres through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, bound for the legendary city of Machu Picchu. To take part in this trek in support of the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau, each climber made a commitment to raise a minimum of \$10,000 in donations for the Fondation and to cover **all of the expenses** related to the trip.

For a snapshot of the expedition

Daily capsules and photos were posted on the event website at www.defischarles-bruneau.qc.ca.

The Charles-Bruneau Challenge

The Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau has staged a number of climbing expeditions since 2008: three on Mount Kilimanjaro, one to Everest Base Camp, one on Mount Elbrous, and now, one to the fabled city of Machu Picchu. In total, the Fondation has raised more than \$2.3 million in support of children with cancer. To adequately meet the growing needs of the Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau at CHU Sainte-Justine, the Fondation will stage a second expedition to Everest Base Camp in April 2012.

About the Fondation

Since 1990, the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau has had a mission to give children with cancer the best possible chance of recovery by supporting research and financing the ongoing development of the Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau at CHU Sainte-Justine. For further details please visit www.charlesbruneau.qc.ca.

-30-

Information: David Letky, Communications Officer
Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau
Phone: 514.256.0404, extension 230 Cell: 514.219.6350
dletky@charlesbruneau.qc.ca



Pierre Bruneau and nine of the climbers who took part in the Machu Picchu expedition today announced that they had raised a net sum of \$252,000 in support of the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau. In the foreground is 8-year-old François Sauvageau, who has stage-4 neuroblastoma. François served as spokesperson for the expedition.



Pierre Bruneau in the company of expedition leader François Langlois and the climbers taking part in the Charles-Bruneau Challenge, Machu Picchu 2011.