

**The Charles-Bruneau Challenge:  
The climbers get set for the grand departure to Machu Picchu**

**MONTREAL, MAY 25, 2011** – Pierre Bruneau and 14 climbers today set out from the trailhead at the 82-kilometre mark on the Cuzco-Machu Picchu railway, bound for the legendary city of Machu Picchu. Their 43-kilometre expedition through the Sacred Valley of the Incas is intended to raise proceeds in support of the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau. Their objective is to reach the “Door of the Sun” and thus pay a fitting tribute to all of the children who wage a courageous fight against cancer.

For **Pierre Bruneau**, spokesman for the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau, this Peru expedition is further proof that an undeniable spirit of solidarity exists with children who have cancer: “The Machu Picchu Challenge is my fourth expedition in support of the Fondation, and I can’t wait to meet this challenge on behalf of children who, like François, show exceptional strength of character. All of our climbers share a profound attachment to the cause. In fact, more than half of the group’s members have taken part in one of the Fondation’s climbing expeditions over the years. I’m extremely touched by their loyalty.”

“I wish the climbers courage and energy,” said 8-year-old **François Sauvageau**, spokesperson for the Charles-Bruneau Challenge. François has stage-4 neuroblastoma, a cancerous tumour that has compromised his nervous system for almost two years. 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. His courageous battle has served as an inspiration to all of the participants.

**Financial objective**

The objective of this grand adventure is to raise **\$250,000** in support of the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau. To achieve this, each climber is committed to collecting a minimum of \$10 000 in donations for the Fondation and to covering **all of the expenses** related to the trip.

**Charles-Bruneau Challenge: Machu Picchu 2011**

The Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau has staged several climbing expeditions since 2008, including three ascents of Kilimanjaro. In total, the Fondation has raised more than \$2 million in support of children with cancer. To adequately meet the growing needs of the Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau at the CHU Sainte-Justine, the Fondation has organized a trek along the mythical Inca Trail to the majestic city of Machu Picchu.

**To follow and encourage our climbers**

Members of the public are invited to make a donation and to follow our hikers on their trek by visiting [www.defischarles-bruneau.qc.ca](http://www.defischarles-bruneau.qc.ca). Photographs and a short video will be posted daily on the Fondation website and on social media sites ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)).

**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](http://www.charlesbruneau.qc.ca).

-30-

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*From left to right: 8-year-old François Sauvageau, who has stage-4 neuroblastoma; François Langlois, expedition leader; Pierre Bruneau, spokesman for the Fondation Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau; and the rest of the participants in the Charles-Bruneau Challenge, Machu Picchu 2011.*



*Expedition leader François Langlois accompanied by the second group of climbers taking part in the Charles-Bruneau Challenge, Machu Picchu 2011.*