



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Sunshine DreamLift for Kids Takes Off From Toronto April 19<sup>th</sup>

TORONTO, ON – Adventure is in the air for over 80 children living with severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses who will soon be whisked away on a Sunshine DreamLift for a day of “yes” at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando Florida courtesy of The Sunshine Foundation of Canada. Accompanied by a wide network of volunteers and support staff, these Sunshine Kids are in for a once in a lifetime experience that for many of them will include their first time away from Mom and Dad and/or their first time being on an airplane.

This will be Sunshine’s 61<sup>st</sup> DreamLift since the Foundation’s inception in 1987. The Sunshine DreamLift experience provides children with a one-day adventure they’ll never forget; creating a lasting impact that connects them to other children, giving them a sense of independence, instilling hope, and building confidence. Unlike Sunshine’s other dream program “Sunshine Dreams” which often involves other family members, Sunshine DreamLift is a special day just for Sunshine Children where they can “just be kids” in the happiest place on earth.

The majority of the children going on the Sunshine DreamLift were referred by partners at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, both of which will be providing medical support volunteers to be matched with Sunshine Children on DreamLift day. Also joining the Sunshine DreamLift team are members from the Toronto Police Service who have volunteered to support the medical teams in physically getting children safely on and off the plane and the rides at the Magic Kingdom.

South of the border, support for Sunshine DreamLift is being provided by the Orange County Sheriff’s Office from Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with volunteers from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Federal Air Marshall’s Service (FAMS) who together will greet the DreamLift flight on the tarmac at Orlando International Airport.

“The support that Sunshine receives from all of our dedicated volunteers, both in Canada and in the U.S., is big part of what makes this day so special,” says Nancy Sutherland, CEO of The Sunshine Foundation of Canada. “Seeing everyone come together and be so dedicated to putting smiles on these kid’s faces and showing them something extraordinary is really a dream come true for Sunshine.”

Sunshine DreamLifts are made possible by donations and gifts from individuals all across Canada and through a community of business supporters. The 61<sup>st</sup> Sunshine DreamLift will take off from Pearson International Airport on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information visit: [www.sunshine.ca](http://www.sunshine.ca)

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### **ABOUT THE SUNSHINE FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada believes that every child should be able to realize their dreams. As a national Canadian charity impacting the lives of children living with severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses, Sunshine gives truly amazing children the opportunity to experience freedom from their daily regimens and challenges by having their dreams transformed into reality. Sunshine Dream Programs, “Sunshine Dreams” and “Sunshine DreamLifts” are once-in-a-lifetime experiences designed to impact the dreamer with a sense of independence, confidence and empowerment that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Sunshine Dreams can range from family trips, to meeting a hero, to customized gifts. A Sunshine DreamLift is a whirlwind one-day ‘day of

yes' adventure to a Disney theme park for a large group of children. Since its inception in 1987, Sunshine has fulfilled dreams for more than 8,000 children across Canada and coordinated 60 Sunshine DreamLifts.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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