
Cenovus donates \$1 million to Alberta Ronald McDonald Houses Gift will help provide expanded support for children and families

CALGARY, Alberta (October 21, 2011) – Cenovus Energy Inc. (TSX, NYSE: CVE) is pleased to announce the company has donated \$1 million to the three Ronald McDonald Houses in Alberta to help the organization increase the number of families it can assist when a gravely ill child must travel from home for medical treatment.

The donation will be shared among Ronald McDonald Houses in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton to assist each of those locations with various projects. The money earmarked for Red Deer will support the capital campaign to build the first ever Ronald McDonald House in that city, while in Edmonton the Cenovus gift will support “The Magic Room”, which provides children a fun moment for them during a trying time. In Calgary, the money will be directed to a new and exciting initiative coming in 2012, at which time the Southern Alberta group will release more details.

“We’re extremely pleased to commit \$1 million to help further the excellent work of the Ronald McDonald Houses here in Calgary, as well as Red Deer and Edmonton,” said Brian Ferguson, Cenovus President & Chief Executive Officer. “It makes us happy to know that we are contributing to the well-being of families from around Alberta while an ill child is receiving treatment, which of course is a very difficult and stressful time.”

“On behalf of the more than 1,500 sick children and families we serve every year, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to Cenovus for their unprecedented gift to the three Ronald McDonald Houses in Alberta,” said Larry Mathieson, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House® Southern Alberta and Ronald McDonald House® Central Alberta. “Through Cenovus’s five-year commitment, we can continue to ensure that children have their families when they need them most. We want to thank Cenovus for its commitment and compassion in helping to build a foundation of support, so we can continue to help countless seriously ill children and their families for years to come.”

Cenovus made its announcement to coincide with a day of volunteer service by a group of its employees at Ronald McDonald House. The employees cooked and served a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for children and families staying at the House as part of Ronald McDonald House® Southern Alberta’s Home for Dinner program. This volunteer initiative is part of an ongoing commitment Cenovus has made to support the Ronald McDonald House organization with more than just money.

“We want the communities where we live and operate to be better off because Cenovus is there,” Ferguson said. “Our volunteer activity with Ronald McDonald House, along with many other organizations, and the company’s charitable giving combine to achieve this goal.”

Cenovus Energy Inc.

Cenovus Energy Inc. is a Canadian, integrated oil company. It is committed to applying fresh, progressive thinking to safely and responsibly unlock energy resources the world needs. Operations include oil sands projects in northern Alberta, which use specialized methods to drill and pump the oil to the surface, and established natural gas and oil production in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The company also has 50% ownership in two U.S. refineries. Cenovus shares trade under the symbol CVE, and are listed on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges. For more information, visit www.cenovus.com.

Ronald McDonald House® Southern Alberta:

Ronald McDonald House® Southern Alberta is a compassionate, safe and affordable home away from home for out-of-town families whose children are receiving treatment in a local Calgary hospital. The purpose of Ronald McDonald House® Southern Alberta is to keep families together and provide a supportive environment while the family member is being treated for their illness.

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