



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Empire and Canadian Paralympic Committee announce partnership focused on celebrating inclusivity in Canadian sport**

*Empire's family of banners will support Canadian Paralympians on the road to Beijing 2022 and beyond*

**Stellarton, NS/Ottawa, ON (October 13, 2021)** – Empire Company Limited (“Empire” or the “Company”) (TSX:EMP.A) and the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) are proud to announce a partnership that will support Paralympic athletes and their ambitious goals leading into the Beijing 2022 Games and beyond. Through this new, long-term partnership, Empire’s family of brands will be recognized as the Official Grocer of the Canadian Paralympic Team.

Empire’s banner brands Sobeys, IGA, Les Marchés Tradition, Marché Bonichoix, Rachele Béry, Safeway, Foodland, Thrifty Foods and Voilà will celebrate inclusivity in sport, providing access to healthy food to Canada’s Paralympic athletes on their journey to represent Canada on the biggest international stage.

“Like the Canadian Paralympic Committee, we strongly believe sport is a place for everyone and this new partnership further reinforces our commitment to Canadian athletes and our ongoing journey to prioritize celebrating and embedding diversity, equity and inclusion in all areas of the business,” said Erika DeHaas, Vice President of Marketing Communications at Sobeys Inc. “We know our high-performance athletes rely on the support of their families, their communities and their sponsors as they prepare to compete on the world stage and we are proud to stand with them on their journey to Beijing this winter.”

Empire will also provide grocery cards to qualified athletes to redeem for nutritious food at Empire’s banner brands, including Sobeys, IGA, Safeway, Foodland and Thrifty Foods helping to fuel their rigorous training and preparation leading up to the Beijing Games.

“We are so pleased to welcome the Empire family of grocery brands to the Canadian Paralympic Committee family and we’re honoured to have Empire brands serve as our Official Grocer,” said Karen O’Neill, CEO, Canadian Paralympic Committee. “This important grocery card program will provide immense support to Paralympic athletes across the country on their journey to the Games and is a fantastic way to kick off our partnership.”

Empire has selected a diverse group of Paralympic athletes, representative of the communities the retailer serves coast to coast, to act as brand ambassadors as part of Team Empire. These athletes include:



- Mark Arendz, Para-Nordic Skiing – Hartsville, PEI
- Mollie Jepsen, Para-Alpine Skiing – Vancouver, BC
- Frédérique Turgeon, Para-Alpine Skiing- Montreal, QC

Beginning in 2022, Canadians can join in and support Canadian Paralympic athletes through Empire's multi-channel marketing campaign ahead of the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

#### **ABOUT EMPIRE**

Empire Company Limited (TSX: EMP.A) is a Canadian company headquartered in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. Empire's key businesses are food retailing, through wholly-owned subsidiary Sobeys Inc., and related real estate. With approximately \$28.5 billion in annual sales and \$15.9 billion in assets, Empire and its subsidiaries, franchisees and affiliates employ approximately 134,000 people.

#### **ABOUT THE CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**

The Canadian Paralympic Committee is a non-profit, private organization with 27 member sports organizations dedicated to strengthening the Paralympic Movement. The Canadian Paralympic Committee's vision is to be the world's leading Paralympic nation. Its mission is to lead the development of a sustainable Paralympic sport system in Canada to enable athletes to reach the podium at the Paralympic Games. By supporting Canadian high performance athletes with a disability and promoting their success, the Canadian Paralympic Committee inspires all Canadians to get involved in sport. For more information, visit [Paralympic.ca](http://Paralympic.ca)

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