



November 15, 2011

**TORONTO RAPTORS AND THE MLSE TEAM UP FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE BASKETBALL COURT
REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS FOR 2011-12 SEASON**

The MLSE Team Up Foundation, with the help of the Toronto Raptors coaching staff, announced Tuesday the locations of three community basketball courts that will be refurbished this season. Lotherton community outdoor court, Scarborough Village community outdoor court and event host Cabbagetown Youth Centre (CYC) will be improved thanks to the Foundation's legacy program. These courts represent three of eight sports facilities to benefit from the program that refurbishes hockey rinks, basketball courts and soccer pitches, bringing the total amount of projects to 37 since the launch of the program.

Head Coach Dwane Casey was joined by assistant coaches Johnny Davis, Micah Nori, Scott Roth, Tom Sterner and Eric Hughes for the announcement. Also in attendance were representatives from the three communities receiving basketball court upgrades and youth from the CYC. After the announcement, the youth from CYC took part in a basketball clinic conducted by the Raptors basketball development team.

"We're thrilled to make a difference for the kids and families that will use these courts and contribute to the strengthening of community engagement and belonging through sports," said Michael Bartlett, Executive Director, MLSE Team Up Foundation. "These courts provide youth and their families with a place to gather, play and connect. Through our legacy program we're trying to ensure that communities like Cabbagetown, Lotherton and Scarborough Village have these facilities."

The MLSE Team Up Foundation, with the support of partners such as Rogers Communications and Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation department, will invest more than \$300,000 in significant upgrades and improvements to the three basketball courts, including backboards and rims for all locations, new flooring for Cabbagetown, installation of a new regulation-sized court at Lotherton and installation of a new court surface at Scarborough Village.

The Team Up Foundation's legacy program supports the importance that recreational places such as courts play in shaping the lives of people in a community by promoting physical activity and an inclusive environment.

The MLSE Team Up Foundation is the charitable arm of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), combining the philanthropic efforts of all four MLSE-owned teams – the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto FC and Toronto Marlies. Launched in December 2009, the Foundation strives to improve the lives of youth by building facilities, giving to sustainable programs and empowering youth through sports and recreation.

For information, visit www.mlseteamupfoundation.org

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