



## Rideau Carleton Casino, Future Hard Rock and its guests donate \$5,000 to the Royal Ottawa Foundation

**January 24, 2024** - Rideau Carleton Casino, Future Hard Rock and its guests have banded together to donate more than \$5,000 to the [Royal Ottawa Foundation](#) in support of mental health research and awareness, and its *Do it for Daron* fund.

The donation coincides with Bell Let's Talk Day, an initiative aimed at promoting mental health awareness and reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness across Canada. Rideau Carleton Casino, Future Hard Rock hopes to contribute to the ongoing conversation about mental health and inspire positive change within the community.

To raise funds, Rideau Carleton Casino, Future Hard Rock held an event with its community ambassador, Ottawa Senators defenseman Jakob Chychrun, who posed for photos with guests and shared his personal connection to the *Do It For Daron* charity. Guests were also encouraged to contribute to fundraising by purchasing a purple bracelet, which is associated with the cause.

Jakob's uncle is Luke Richardson, the former Sens assistant coach who launched the *Do It For Daron* charity in honour of his late daughter, Daron. The charity is dedicated to promoting mental health awareness and providing support for those affected by mental illness, a cause that resonates deeply with the Ottawa community.

As part of the event, Rideau Carleton Casino, Future Hard Rock presented a cheque of \$5,000 to Shaundra Mitchener, Manager of Partnerships & Events from the Royal Ottawa Foundation of Mental Health. The contribution will further the Royal's efforts in research, treatment, and education related to mental health.

The Royal is one of Canada's foremost mental health care, teaching and research hospitals. Its mandate is to help more people living with mental illness and addiction into recovery faster.

Hard Rock International, known for its commitment to philanthropy and community engagement through its mottos #hardrockheals and #allisone, partners with local organizations to make a

positive impact. The event was an opportunity for Hard Rock to highlight the importance of mental health in the community and the work environment.

As the future Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Ottawa takes shape at the Rideau Carleton Casino, the commitment to supporting important causes and engaging with the local community remains a cornerstone of its mission. The event served as a powerful reminder that when entertainment and philanthropy join forces, they can create lasting and meaningful change.

**For more information:**

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**About Rideau Carleton Casino**

Rideau Carleton Casino officially opened as Rideau Carleton Raceway on September 1st, 1962, as Canada's first-ever five-eighths mile oval and has been a key part of Ontario's harness racing community ever since. Since the gaming site was added in February 2000, the City of Ottawa has received approximately \$6 million annually and over \$95 million in total payments for hosting Rideau Carleton Casino within the National Capital Region. An additional \$1+ million per year is invested in local sponsorships and nonprofits, benefiting local communities and the people within. In May 2017, OLG selected Hard Rock Ottawa as the successful new Casino partner for this site. Hard Rock is working to build a new state-of-the-art entertainment facility that will soon bring the iconic Hard Rock brand to Ottawa, and enliven the city like never before. The facility is a significant driver of job creation and is expected to employ over 700 local residents once the facility expansion has been completed. Rideau Carleton Casino is operated by [Hard Rock International](#) and governed by [Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation \(OLG\)](#). For more information on Rideau Carleton Casino, visit [www.rideaucarletoncasino.com](http://www.rideaucarletoncasino.com).

**About Hard Rock**

[Hard Rock International](#) (HRI) is one of the most globally recognized companies with venues in over 70 countries spanning 290 locations that include owned/licensed or managed Hotels, Casinos, Rock Shops®, Live Performance Venues and Cafes. HRI also launched a joint venture named Hard Rock Digital in 2020, an online sportsbook, retail sportsbook and internet gaming platform. Beginning with an Eric Clapton guitar, Hard Rock owns the world's largest and most valuable collection of authentic music memorabilia at more than 87,000 pieces, which are displayed at its locations around the globe. In 2023, Hard Rock Hotels was honored by J.D. Power's North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Study as the number one brand in Outstanding Guest Satisfaction for the fourth time over the last five years. Hard Rock was also honored by Forbes among the World's Best Employers, as well as Best Employers for Women, Diversity and New Grads, Best Brands for Social Impact, Customer Service All-Star and a Top Large Employer in the Travel & Leisure, Gaming, and

Entertainment Industry. HRI became the first privately-owned gaming company designated a U.S. Best Managed Company by Deloitte Private and The Wall Street Journal in 2021, and has since been honored threefold. In the 2022 Global Gaming Awards, Hard Rock was named Land-Based Operator of the Year for the second time in four years. In 2021, Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos received first place ranking in the Casino Gaming Executive Satisfaction Survey conducted by Bristol Associates Inc. and Spectrum Gaming Group for six of the last seven years. Hard Rock International currently holds investment grades from primary investment rating agencies: S&P Global Ratings (BBB) and Fitch Ratings (BBB). For more information on Hard Rock International, visit [www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com) or [shop.hardrock.com](http://shop.hardrock.com).