



A division of Save-On-Foods Limited Partnership, a Jim Pattison business



Media Release



Jim Pattison Group food businesses join forces under The Pattison Food Group

(February 18, 2021 – Vancouver, BC) Jim Pattison Group businesses Save-On-Foods, Buy-Low Foods and Quality Foods announced today as part of the evolution of their services to independent retailers and home consumers in Western Canada, that they will report to the newly formed Pattison Food Group, along with specialty operations and wholesale divisions including PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare, Bulkley Valley Wholesale, Everything Wine, Pure Integrative Pharmacy, Nature's Fare Markets, Meinhardt Fine Foods, Nesters Market, Choices Markets, Associated Grocers, Van-Whole Produce and Imperial Distributors Canada Inc.

This new structure provides a strategic format for capturing synergies without affecting the value that each unique retail and wholesale operation delivers to its customers today. This new structure will allow The Pattison Food Group businesses to increase efficiencies with lower operating and product costs to better serve the needs of their diverse customer base across Western Canada.

This structure will allow the businesses to build momentum, leverage each other's strengths, and enhance efficiencies across their respective organizations and will ultimately provide opportunities for growth and job security for more than 30,000 team members.

Noel Hayward, President of Quality Foods said, "Our relationship with the Jim Pattison Group started in 2012 and it has given us the confidence and the ability to grow our business on Vancouver Island, and created opportunities for our employees to learn and develop their skills. Through 2020, we especially saw the importance of good communication and access to best available information, technology and people. Our team is proud of our unique culture, the freedom to make decisions locally and the accountability that goes along with it, but we are also looking forward to realizing growth opportunities and achieving economies of scale as part of The Pattison Food Group."

Dan Bregg, President of Buy-Low Foods/Associated Grocers said, "As the Home of the Independent for almost 95 years, Associated Grocers, Buy-Low Foods and our associated group of conventional and specialty retail stores have been driven by one purpose: to provide a sustainable foundation for healthy communities. Our goal is to add value to the lives of our loyal customers, our team members, and the 2,000 independent grocers, restaurants, food relief agencies, and local specialty shops we service everyday – from B.C. to Quebec. We are proud of the unique support and services we provide to those businesses today and we are very excited about the additional benefits we can offer with the combined power of our collective group."

The Pattison Food Group will be led by Darrell Jones, President of Save-On-Foods, and each of The Pattison Food Group businesses will continue to operate with their own president and management teams.



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“Our goal is to help further strengthen what customers have come to know and love from each of these organizations, by providing the tools and support that will allow each of our unique offerings to continue to evolve and increase the value that we deliver to our customers,” said Darrell Jones, President of Save-On-Foods. “Over the last five years, Save-On-Foods has been the fastest growing grocery retailer in Western Canada and this structure only strengthens and supports our ability to compete against the national players. We are so excited about this opportunity to increase synergies; we just couldn’t ask for better people to do business with.”

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About The Pattison Food Group

Established in 2021, The Pattison Food Group is a Jim Pattison business and Western Canada’s leading provider of food and drugs. The Pattison Food Group includes Save-On-Foods, Buy-Low Foods, Quality Foods, Everything Wine, Pure Integrative Pharmacy, Imperial Distributors Canada Inc., and other Jim Pattison Group specialty and wholesale operations. Its businesses employ more than 30,000 team members in its 287 food and drug retail locations and share a passion for giving back to the communities where they do business. The Pattison Food Group businesses are leaders in customer service and innovation and are committed to achieving long-term growth.

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About Save-On-Foods

Save-On-Foods is a Jim Pattison business, committed to Going the Extra Mile for customers in every community served, every day. As Western Canada’s fastest growing retailer operating 181 Save-On-Foods, PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare and Bulkley Valley Wholesale stores from B.C. to Manitoba, Save-On-Foods plans to open an additional seven stores this year. Known for its unique approach in customizing each store to best suit the needs of the neighbourhood by carrying more than 2,500 locally made products from more than 2,000 local growers and producers, the company has been innovating and putting customers first for over 100 years. Save-On-Foods, its supplier partners, team members and generous customers have donated more than \$40 million to children’s hospitals and contribute \$3 million in donations to food banks across Western Canada each year.

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About Buy-Low Foods

Buy-Low Foods (BLF) was originally founded as a single store in 1966 and today is a Jim Pattison owned and operated retailer with 63 Corporate and Franchise Independent stores in Urban, Suburban and Rural communities throughout British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

BLF's retail store banners include Buy-Low Foods, Choices Markets, Nature's Fare Markets, Nesters Market, and Meinhardt's Fine Foods. With over 3,880 retail team members committed to providing their customers with quality products and exceptional customer service – BLF's neighbourhood stores have strong roots in their communities, each format with its own unique style and offering.

Through its Associated Grocers and Van-Whole Produce Wholesale Divisions, Buy-Low is also a wholesale food supplier to more than 2,000 independent retailers across B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan and a proud supplier to individual stores, small regional chains and particularly its own group of sponsored AG Foods locations.

For more information contact:

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About Quality Foods

Vancouver Island's very own Quality Foods started out opening small stores, in small towns and grew with the communities. And that's exactly what is happening in Parksville. Our new store will open in March, and then the original store will be converted into a new concept to support all of our locations. In Victoria, plans are in the works for our new Royal Bay Store that will open in 2022; giving us a total of 14 stores on Vancouver Island and one in Powell River.

Quality Foods operates every store with the mindset of "the local grocer." Our store managers spend a lot of time in store, on the floor and are known by name, or recognized by their customers. Our product offering features a line of Island Good products to showcase local suppliers, our advertising features local scenery to celebrate the beauty of where we live and instill a sense of community pride.

Quality Foods is well known for supporting the communities where we operate and is a proud champion of local food banks and supporter of AutismBC.

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