



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

**SAPUTO TRANSFERS PRODUCTION FROM
MONROE CHEESE AND THORP FACILITIES**

(*Saint-Léonard, November 3, 2000*) Saputo Inc. announced today the closure of two of its 17 U.S. facilities. The plants will be phasing out operations and will permanently close on or around January 3, 2001. The Monroe Cheese plant was producing approximately 6.8 million kg (15 million lbs.) of Mozzarella and Provolone per year. The Thorp plant was producing approximately 8.2 million kg (18 million lbs.) of Gorgonzola and Blue Cheese per year. The production of these plants is being transferred to other manufacturing facilities of Saputo Inc. These measures fall under the ongoing rationalization process undertaken by the Company within its U.S. operations. This strategy includes the transfer of production to enhance efficiency and increase profitability.

About Saputo

Saputo Inc. is a North American manufacturer of dairy and grocery products. From its dairy processing operations, Saputo manufactures predominantly Mozzarella, with expertise extending to other Italian cheeses, European cheeses and North American cheeses, as well as value-added whey by-products such as lactose and whey protein. The Dairy Products sector's leading brands are *Saputo*, *Stella*, *Frigo*, *Dragone*, *Caron* and *Cayer*. In Canada, Saputo also operates a distribution network through which the Company markets a broad assortment of imported cheeses and non-dairy products to complement its cheese offerings.

Through its Grocery Products sector, Saputo produces and distributes snack cakes, cookies, fine breads and soups, under recognized brand names such as *Vachon*, *Viau-McCormicks*, *Grissol* and *Loney's*.

With the closure of the Monroe and Thorp facilities, Saputo will employ approximately 5,250 people. Within the Dairy Products sector, it will operate 15 plants in the United States, as well as 11 plants and a network of 17 distribution centres in Canada. In the Grocery Products sector, Saputo operates five plants in Canada and a direct store delivery network of 53 warehouses and five distribution centres. The Company's shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol SAP.

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