



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

SAPUTO GROUP INC.

**SAPUTO GROUP INC. ANNOUNCES THE FILING OF ITS
PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS**

(Montreal, December 22, 1997) - Saputo Group announced today that it has filed a preliminary prospectus with securities regulatory authorities in all provinces of Canada. It relates to the Common Shares issuable upon the exercise of its 9 000 000 Special Warrants sold on December 10, 1997 to a group of underwriters at the price of C \$ 25 per Special Warrant. Each Special Warrant entitles its holder to acquire, without additional payment, one Common Share of Saputo.

Saputo has established itself as Canada's leading producer of mozzarella with a share of approximately 34% of Canadian mozzarella production. Saputo produces and markets other Italian specialty cheeses and by-products such as butter, lactose and whey protein. Saputo also distributes in Canada fine imported cheeses and a large assortment of other non-dairy products that complement its cheese distribution. With the acquisition of Stella Foods, Inc., the Company has over 2 700 employees and operates six manufacturing facilities in Canada and fourteen in the United States. Saputo, on a pro-forma basis, has annual sales of approximately C \$ 1.46 billion (US \$ 1 billion) and an EBITDA of C \$ 136 million (US \$ 98 million). Saputo's Common Shares are listed on the Montreal and Toronto stock exchanges under the symbol SAP. Saputo was advised by Schrodgers on the acquisition.

- 30 -

For further information:

Camillo Lisio
Executive Vice President
(514) 328-3314