



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

SAPUTO GROUP INC.

**SAPUTO GROUP INC. ANNOUNCES THE CLOSING OF ITS
SPECIAL WARRANTS OFFERING**

(Montreal, December 10, 1997) - Saputo Group announced today that it has completed its offering of 9 000 000 Special Warrants exercisable into Common Shares at a price of C \$ 25 for an aggregate amount of C \$ 225 000 000. As part of this offering, the Saputo Family has purchased 6 051 620 Special Warrants for an aggregate amount of approximately C \$ 151 300 000 representing 67.2 % of the Offering. Saputo will use the net proceeds of this Offering to reimburse a portion of the loans incurred for the acquisition of Stella Foods completed last Friday.

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.

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