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**Hard-hit Energy Services Sector Continues to Champion STARS
More than Half a Million Dollars Raised at PSAC's 22nd Annual STARS & SPURS Gala**

Calgary, Alberta —The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) announced today it has helped raise more than \$12 million for the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) over 22 years of presenting the annual STARS & SPURS Gala. The longest-standing, largest fundraiser in Alberta, this year's gala raised more than half a million dollars.

"The partnership between PSAC and STARS has been built on perseverance, teamwork and generosity of spirit," said Andrea Robertson, President and CEO of STARS. "We are so thankful and humbled by the support we have received from the petroleum industry during these difficult economic times. When you see a red helicopter in the sky, know that your support has helped STARS continue to fly the emergency room to critically ill and injured people and provide care for workers in the oil and gas industry across Alberta."

Canada's oil and natural gas industry opened their wallets and their hearts to make the STARS & SPURS Gala a huge success, commented President and CEO of PSAC, Mark Salkeld. "Once again, the generosity of the oilfield services sector and their customers, the producers, shines through in 2016. Even when the energy industry is experiencing tough times, everyone comes out for a great night of western fun, entertainment and generosity."

More than 800 guests attended the STARS & SPURS Gala on Saturday, January 23, at the BMO Centre, Stampede Park. Gala guests enjoyed dinner, a performance by CCMA Award winner Jason Blaine, raffles, live and silent auctions, dancing and the chance to network, all with the help of guest emcee Dave Kelly. Although times are tough, five industry packages in the live auction went for \$178,000 (total live auction: \$217,000) and the most popular silent auction item, a guitar signed by the Rolling Stones, went for \$3,900, helping the silent auction to raise over \$66,000.

Gala guests also toasted the 2016 Honourary Patron Kevin Neveu, President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Precision Drilling Corporation, who was recognized for his contributions to the success of PSAC, STARS and the Gala.

In addition to representatives from the energy sector, the event was attended by a number of STARS' volunteers and Very Important Patients (VIPs). One of those VIPs, Stu Wilson, was injured on the long weekend in 1997 when he ended up in a head-on collision. STARS transported him to Foothills Medical Centre where he spent a long time recovering from his injuries including a collapsed lung, a badly damaged (almost amputated) right foot, many broken ribs and a fractured humerus. Stu shared his vivid and touching story and was joined on stage by flight nurse Carolyn Vacey. Ironically, the STARS helicopter present that night at the gala was the very same one Stu was flown in 19 years ago.

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) is Working Energy. As the voice of Canada's leading petroleum industry service, supply and manufacturing companies, PSAC advocates for its members to enable their continued innovation, technological advancement and in-the-field experience that helps increase efficiency, improve safety and reduce the environmental impact for Canada's energy exploration and development.

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