



September 22, 2014

Dear Elected Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School District,

On September 24, 2008, a previous Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) Board required the superintendent of the CCSD to distribute a 2008 episcopal letter concerning the HPV vaccine to pupils enrolled in CCSD schools. We write to ask you please, in your meeting September 24, 2014, to place this matter on your agenda and to vote in favour of rescinding the order to send and publish that letter.

The HPV vaccine, offered to girls and boys for free by the Alberta Government, is safe and effective and generates the greatest immune response when administered prior to the age of 15. To be fully effective, vaccination must occur prior to infection. The free HPV vaccine has no ability to produce promiscuity or to undermine an abstinence teaching method. We agree that sexual abstinence is the best method to avoid the transmission of HPV. We invite you to cooperate with public health physicians and nurses in helping people avoid some of the possible consequences of sexual activity, and to accept that some sexual activity is not consensual.

We remind you that tax-payer funded educational institutions have a moral duty to distribute and publish accurate information.

We remind you of your statutory duty under the *Schools Act* to “ensure that each student enrolled in a school operated by the board is provided with a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours.” (RSA 2000, c S-3 s. 45(8)).

We remind you that Pope Francis has called upon the faithful to respond to one another with a Christian ethic of care which, he said, “means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the

elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about.” (Drew Christiansen, *The National Catholic Review*, April 8, 2013).

Please help reduce the number of people who will face disease and early death from HPV-related cancers. Please place on your agenda and vote on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 to rescind a previous board’s direction to the superintendent to distribute and publish the 2008 episcopal HPV letter to pupils and their parents and guardians.

Yours sincerely,

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Allison McGeer MSc, MD, Toronto, Ontario
David Scheifele OC MD, Vancouver, BC
Ian Mitchell, Professor of Medicine; MB, ChB, MA, DCH, FCCP, FRCPC, MRCP
A. Mark Joffe, MD, Professor of Medicine, Edmonton, Alberta
Dr. David Swann, MLA Calgary Mountain View
Phil Gold, CC, OQ, MD, PhD, FRSC, MACP, FRCP(C) Anne Doig MD CCFP
FCFP LLD (Hons)
Edward Bartlett, PhD, Calgary, Alberta
William G. Hughson, MD, DPhil, FRCP(C) born in Calgary, currently La Jolla CA
Shannon MacDonald PhD RN, Member, Assumption, RC Archdiocese, Edmonton
Margaret Russell, PhD, Professor, Calgary, Alberta
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Stacey Page PhD, Calgary Alberta
Andrew Stewart, BSc (Hon), Calgary, Alberta
Ebba Kurz, PhD Calgary, AB
Douglas L. Myhre MD Calgary, Alberta
Karen Thomas BA, Calgary, Alberta
Diane Allen, Executive Director, Infertility Network, Toronto, Ontario
Anita Carey RN (Assoc), CD (DONA), LCCE, CLE
Zeev Rosberger, PhD, Montreal, Québec
Bruno Masquillier, Calgary, Alberta
Kim Weeks, mother of two daughters, Calgary, Alberta
Laura C. Snowball, LLM, Barrister & Solicitor
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