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Vaccinating kids against HPV saves lives!



News Release

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Calgary Catholic School Board refuses to vote on HPV Vaccination HPV Calgary seeks Calgarians' help to take legal action

(Calgary, AB) HPV Calgary is announcing that it will take legal action against the Calgary Catholic School Board in order to open school doors to HPV vaccinations.

For more than a year, medical specialists and public health advocates have been asking the School Board to reverse a former Board's 2008 ban on the HPV vaccine. Despite a formal request by more than 100 citizens, including mothers, fathers, physicians, lawyers, health scientists, medical researchers, nurses, social workers, engineers and business people, the Board declined to include HPV vaccination on its meeting agenda last night.

HPV Calgary believes that the School Board's vaccine ban violates administrative law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It has retained a team of legal experts to undertake this case.

"Given the simple, glaring fact that HPV vaccinations help save lives, it is disappointing that we are compelled to take legal action to force the Board to cooperate with nurses to protect the health of children," says **Dr. Ian Mitchell, professor of paediatrics at the University of Calgary and a founding member of HPV Calgary**. "HPV is **the cause** of cervical cancer. There are more than 1300 cases of cervical cancer diagnosed in Canada annually, and each year, 400 Canadian women (50 Albertans) die of this devastating disease."

Members of HPV Calgary are asking fellow Calgarians to donate to this litigation.

“Quiet, behind-the-scenes efforts to ask the school trustees to focus on children have failed. The only choice now is to put the matter before a judge,” says **Juliet Guichon, PhD, a legal scholar and assistant professor of community health sciences at the University of Calgary.** “Publicly funded schools are owned by the public. We are asking Calgarians to help us ensure that every child has easy access to preventative health care. By taking up this cause today, we will help save the lives of Calgary girls and women in the future.”

HPV Calgary will not disclose who has donated to the litigation fund, except if required by law.

For more information: visit <http://hugyourkids.org>

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