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## News Release

August 14, 2012

### ***HPV Calgary releases summer correspondence with Calgary Catholic School Board***

*HPV Calgary calls on Board to lift vaccine ban at September 12 meeting*

(Calgary, AB) HPV Calgary has released recent correspondence regarding the Calgary Catholic School Board's HPV vaccine ban.

On July 4, 2012, HPV Calgary asked each school trustee to express what his/her "conscience affirms to be in the best interests of the most vulnerable children in the Catholic schools in Calgary." To date, Board members have not done so.

Instead, on July 25, 2012, the Board reiterated that it recognizes "the role of Alberta's Bishops in directing Catholic jurisdictions in areas of moral and spiritual thought", and will not lift its ban on the HPV vaccine.

On August 10, more than 100 citizens, including mothers, fathers, physicians, lawyers, health scientists, medical researchers, nurses and social workers, challenged the Board to hear from a diverse range of sources of information about HPV.

On July 27, HPV Calgary wrote to the Ottawa-based Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops seeking clarification on the social justice teaching of the Catholic Church. The national body replied that it would not intervene and that parents are the primary educators of children. Yesterday HPV asked the national organization of bishops whether it is consistent with Catholic teaching for Catholic institutions to make it difficult to protect their children against infectious disease, especially when parents have limited resources.

“It is unreasonable and unrealistic for the Board to expect all parents to make three appointments and to take their child three times to a community health clinic for a three-dose vaccine when easy access can be found in school,” says Dr. Ian Mitchell, a professor of pediatrics and a bioethicist. “We are calling for the Board to focus on social justice by providing a compassionate response to the complex and difficult lives many Calgary parents lead.”

HPV Calgary invites citizens to sign a petition posted at <http://hugyourkids.org>

HPV Calgary is filing documents to become incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act, and is seeking donations from the public at [HugYourKids.Org](http://HugYourKids.Org). Donors may be assured that HPV Calgary will not disclose, except if required by law, who has donated to this fund.

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

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Documents accompanying this release:

Correspondence between HPV Calgary and the Calgary Catholic School Trustees:

1. HPV Calgary to CCSD Trustees July 4
2. CCSD to HPV Calgary July 25
3. HPV Calgary to CCSD August 10

Correspondence between HPV Calgary and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

4. HPV Calgary to CCCB July 27
5. CCCB to HPV Calgary August 8
6. HPV Calgary to CCCB August 13