



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness comments on
anti-genetic discrimination legislation**

(Kitchener, ON) June 9, 2015 –Today, Minister Peter MacKay on the behalf of the Government of Canada announced legislation to prohibit genetic discrimination, following its Throne Speech commitment on the issue. Bev Heim-Myers, Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness and CEO of the Huntington Society of Canada, issued the following statement:

“Since the Genome Project was launched in the early 1990’s, Canada has been the only G7 country that has not taken steps to prevent genetic discrimination. We commend the government for taking an important step forward and raising the urgent need to combat genetic discrimination in Canada.

"Moving forward, it is imperative that provincial and territorial governments across Canada quickly pass complementary legislation to ensure genetic discrimination is prevented and genetic test information is protected for all Canadians across all jurisdictions.”

“This government bill will facilitate the continuation of the important discussion to end genetic discrimination in Canada. We look forward to positive change for all Canadians.”

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The Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness (CCGF/CCEG) is a coalition of organizations dedicated to preventing genetic discrimination for all Canadians. The Coalition is deeply concerned about discrimination against individuals based on their genetic make-up. We are united to educate Canadians about genetic discrimination and to influence governments both federal and provincial, and other relevant organizations to create change. CCGF/CCEG currently represents 18 hereditary genetic diseases in Canada.

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Members of CCGF/CCEG are:

ALS Society of Canada	Alzheimer Society of Canada
Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	CORD
The Foundation Fighting Blindness	Huntington Society of Canada
Kidney Foundation of Canada	Muscular Dystrophy Canada
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada	Osteoporosis Canada
Ovarian Cancer Canada	Parkinson Society of Canada
Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada	Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics
Canadian PKU & Allied Disorders	Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Canada
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs	The Canadian Breast Cancer Society

Individual Members

The Huntington Society of Canada is the founding organization of the Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness (CCGF). CCGF is dedicated to preventing genetic discrimination for all Canadians. Canada is currently the only G7 country that does not protect its citizens against genetic discrimination.

For more information, please contact:

Canadian Coalition of Genetic Fairness

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