

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Join the Huntington Society of Canada as Ottawa Mayor Proclaims May
as Huntington Disease Awareness Month**

(Kitchener, ON) May 12, 2016 – May is HD Awareness Month and volunteers across the nation are courageously and enthusiastically spreading the word, educating Canadians about the disease and how they can help the thousands of Canadians impacted by this devastating disease.

On May 19th, at the 5th Annual Race for a Cure for Huntington disease, an annual horse race organized by local volunteers to raise money and awareness for Huntington disease, Ottawa’s Mayor Jim Watson will proclaim May as Huntington Disease Awareness Month.

The month of May is particularly designated as Huntington Disease Awareness Month, and we will also be launching our Public Service Announcement (PSA) about Huntington disease on May 1, 2016. To see the Society’s new PSA campaign visit <http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca/psa-campaign/>. During May, monuments across Canada will also be lit up in blue (for Huntington disease) and purple (for Juvenile Huntington disease) to educate Canadians about the disease by lighting up national monuments. The more people understand the disease, the more they can accept those who are impacted and extend support. Some sites in Ontario include the CN Tower in Toronto, the City of Welland Bridge and Niagara Falls. For a full list of confirmed sites, please visit www.lightitupforhd.com.

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Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington’s become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

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