

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sobia Khan 800-998-7398 Ext. 130  
[skhan@huntingtonsociety.ca](mailto:skhan@huntingtonsociety.ca)

## ***Two Local Charities Join Forces to Host Award Winning Author Julie Lawson Timmer***

(KITCHENER, ON) April 4, 2017 – Join the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) and the Kitchener Public Library as they host Julie Lawson Timmer on Monday April 10, 2017 at the Kitchener Public Library. Lawson Timmer is the author of two novels with families at the centre of them: *Five Days Left* and *Untethered*.

*Five Days Left* was named by Library Journal as one of the Best Debuts of the summer. Lawson Timmer is both a writer and a lawyer. As a novelist and chair of HSC’s Believe Campaign, Julie Lawson Timmer is raising awareness about the gut-wrenching challenges that come with Huntington disease (HD).

Until recently, Huntington disease was uncharted territory for the Michigan-based author. Julie has no connection to the disease and knew almost nothing about it until she did a little Googling for her first novel, *Five Days Left*. The more she learned about it, the more determined she was to portray the disease as accurately as possible. This led to countless hours of research and meetings with doctors and other experts in the field. “I didn’t want to parachute into the Huntington community and steal a few symptoms that were sexy for a novel and then leave,” says Julie. “I decided I had to get it right.”

The hard work paid off. *Five Days Left* is a compelling page-turner — the story of a successful lawyer named Mara wrestling with saying goodbye to loved ones as her Huntington disease progresses. Heartfelt and real, it paints a very personal picture of what living with HD can be like.

Critics agree. As a review from the *Library Journal* put it, “Timmer’s debut novel packs a powerful punch. Absorbing, deeply affecting, and ultimately uplifting, it heralds the arrival of an author to watch.” As buzz for the critically acclaimed novel grows, it’s also proving to be a great opportunity to introduce the uninitiated to the world of Huntington disease. “I went to a book club in Michigan,” Julie recounts. “And so many people had said, ‘wow, I didn’t know anything about Huntington disease, and now I feel like I know so much more.’”

Although *Five Days Left* has done much to raise the profile of Huntington disease, Julie wanted to do more. She added links to her website, encouraging readers to donate to the Huntington Society of Canada and to the Huntington Disease Society of America. And when asked if she wanted to get involved with the Huntington Society of Canada’s **Believe: Transforming, Tomorrow, Together** campaign, the answer was an enthusiastic “yes”. “There are not enough people in the Huntington community to raise all the money needed to fund the research. We have to get awareness out,” Lawson Timmer said in a recent interview. She believes that if we can help more people understand what this disease is all about, they will support the crucial research and services that are needed to help those who are impacted.

“Julie has been and continues to be a staunch supporter of the Huntington disease community,” says Bev Heim-Myers, CEO of the Huntington Society of Canada. “Her unwavering support, demonstrated through her involvement with our campaign and participation in our 2016 national conference, is appreciated by all who are impacted by this devastating disease.”

Born in Stratford, Ontario, Julie now lives in Michigan. Her third novel, *Mrs. Saint and the Defectives*, will be published this year.

- 30 -

*Copies of authors' books will be available for purchase.*

**Registration for event is required at [www.kpl.org](http://www.kpl.org).**

*The Kitchener Public Library acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$155 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.*

### **About Huntington Disease**

Huntington disease (HD) is an inherited, 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. Huntington disease is devastating for both the body and the mind. The symptoms, which may include uncontrollable jerking movements and relentless cognitive and emotional impairment, usually present between the ages of 30 and 45, and gradually worsen over the 10-25 year course of the disease. Eventually they lead to total incapacitation and death.

### **About the Huntington Society of Canada**

The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease (HD). HSC is the only national health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with HD across Canada. HSC aspires to a world free from Huntington disease. For more information about Huntington disease and the Huntington Society of Canada visit [www.huntingtonsociety.ca](http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca).

### **About the Kitchener Public Library**

Serving the citizens of Kitchener and surrounding region, Kitchener Public Library has five locations strategically placed throughout the city; including the recently renovated and award-winning Central Library in the downtown core. Kitchener Public Library is the local hub for information, culture, and leisure pursuits and attracts some 1.2 million visitors annually. The library system offers hundreds of free workshops, lectures, and visiting author events throughout the year. To learn more about what Kitchener Public Library has to offer visit [www.kpl.org](http://www.kpl.org).

### **Media Contact:**

Sobia Khan  
Communications Coordinator  
Huntington Society of Canada  
1-800-998-7398 Ext. 130  
[skhan@huntingtonsociety.ca](mailto:skhan@huntingtonsociety.ca)