

## MEDIA RELEASE

## New Name – Same Great Cause!

For Immediate Release

**Edmonton – June 12, 2012** – "Immunize Canada", the new name for a Canadian coalition that is more than 30 national and provincial members strong and 15 years old, is launched today.

The coalition was formerly known as the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion. The new name – "Immunize Canada" – succinctly reflects our goal: to contribute to the control/elimination/eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases in Canada by increasing awareness of recommended immunizations for all ages.

"Immunize Canada is an incredible group of organizations devoted to increasing the uptake of immunizations in order to reduce the incidences of vaccine-preventable diseases across the country," stated Dr. Susan Bowles, Chair, Immunize Canada.

"The re-emergence of diseases previously eradicated by vaccines in some countries highlights the challenges public health faces in communicating the importance of immunizations," said Debra Lynkowski, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Public Health Association (Secretariat for the Coalition). "Immunize Canada undertakes promotion, media relations, advocacy and education to get the important message to Canadians that immunizations are safe and effective and benefit people of all ages."

The ongoing efforts of Immunize Canada are more important today than ever. Visit <u>immunize.ca</u> for more information.

- 30 -

Media Enquiries: Jennifer Stevens Immunize Canada Cell: (613) 897-6438 Email: <u>immunize@cpha.ca</u> immunize.ca http://immunize.ca

## About Immunize Canada:

Immunize Canada is a partnership of national and provincial non-governmental, professional health, consumer, government and private sector organizations. It is a trustworthy and independent voice in support of immunization of children, adolescents, adults, and health care

workers. Its overall aim is to increase awareness about the benefits of immunization and promote the understanding and use of vaccines as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

## Member Organizations of Immunize Canada:

Abbott Inc. AMMI-Canada Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores Canadian Center for Vaccinology Canadian Diabetes Association Canadian Geriatric Society Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association (CGNA) CHICA-Canada Canadian Institute of Child Health Canadian Lung Association Canadian Medical Association Canadian Nurses Association Canadian Nursing Coalition for Immunization (CNCI) Canadian Paediatric Society Canadian Pharmacists Association Canadian Public Health Association College of Family Physicians of Canada Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health GlaxoSmithKline Health Canada - First Nations & Inuit Health Branch Heart and Stroke Foundation Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada Merck Canada Inc. Novartis Pfizer Canada Polio Canada Public Health Agency of Canada Public Health Ontario sanofi pasteur Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada Victorian Order of Nurses (VON)