

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2015

Museum of Health Care celebrates new exhibit on the health of Sir John A. Macdonald's family

(KINGSTON, ON) – On Canada Day, the Museum of Health Care invites you to celebrate its newest bilingual exhibit titled *A Stubborn Illness: the health of the Macdonald Family*. The event will include activities for the whole family, from crafts to gallery tours to refreshments. Admission is free.

Just in time for the 200th anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald, the Museum of Health Care explores a unique aspect of his life: health. The Macdonald family experienced many health problems; some relatively common such as stomach ache or sciatica, but others much more severe or mysterious such as the illness of Sir John A. Macdonald's first wife Isabella.

Sir John A. Macdonald is well remembered for his political career and more importantly the creation of the Canadian Confederation, but the Macdonalds' family life is not as well known, and even less so, the different health problems they experienced. This Canada Day you will have the opportunity to see the new exhibit, as well as tour other onsite galleries and participate in activities and crafts connected to Kingston's historic past.

"The Macdonalds' experience is a fascinating glimpse into the changing medical world of Victorian Canada," says Museum of Health Care Curator Maxime Chouinard. "Through this exhibit the Museum is presenting how families such as the Macdonalds tried to live and treat their respective health issues with the knowledge at hand. *A stubborn illness* will also address some of the work of Dr. John Robinson Dickson, the Macdonalds' family doctor, who also helped create Queen's medical faculty, as well as developing many other institutions around Kingston," Chouinard continues. "We hope this exhibit will inspire visitors to share some of their own history through traditional family medicine," Chouinard concludes.

Location: Museum of Health Care, Ann Baillie Building National Historic Site, 32 George St.

Dates & Times: Wednesday, July 1, 2015, 11am-4pm

Cost: Free

The Museum acknowledges support from the City of Kingston Heritage Fund and the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites.

For more information, contact: Ashley Mendes or Diana Gore
613-548-2419 | info@museumofhealthcare.ca | www.museumofhealthcare.ca