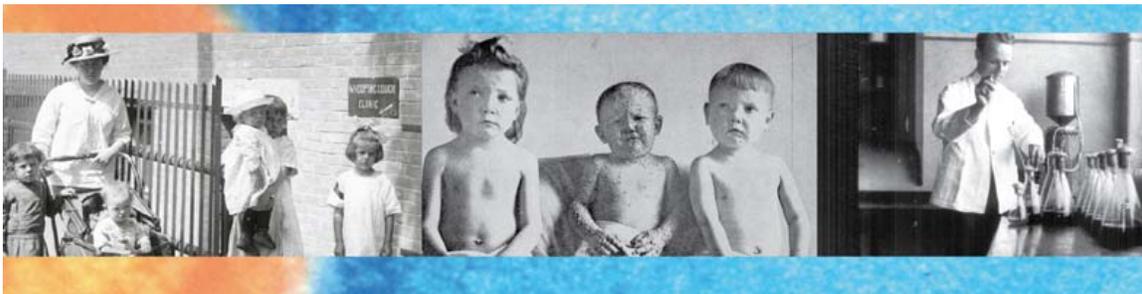


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 6, 2013

## **New Museum of Health Care exhibit aims to shed light on the history of vaccinations**



(KINGSTON, Ont.) – On November 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, the Museum of Health Care invites you to celebrate its newest onsite exhibit *Vaccines and Immunization: Epidemics, Prevention, and Canadian Innovation*. Opening reception will include remarks by guest speakers, followed by refreshments. Admission is free.

Developed with Guest Curator Christopher J. Ruddy, Ph.D, the exhibit explores the importance of vaccinations to the prevention of disease and the ongoing maintenance of community health. Using case studies of three diseases that saw significant decreases in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because of immunization-diphtheria, polio and whooping cough-this exhibit traces the history of past epidemics and their cost to society, explores the search for preventative measures such as vaccines, and discusses Canada's role in vaccine development.

According to Museum Curator Pamela Peacock, “the goal of the exhibition is to show viewers that immunization is a critical tool in disease prevention. In addition to fascinating artefacts such as a restored 1937 iron lung, the history of vaccination will be illuminated with archival images and documentary videos.” The evening will include remarks by Christopher J. Ruddy, Ph.D. (Guest Curator), Dr. Ian Gemmill (Medical Officer for KFL&A) and Bernie Allard (Rotary Club of Cataraqui-Kingston).

“In recent years, we have seen the return of disease outbreaks that had been previously controlled in Canada, for example whooping cough and measles,” Peacock adds. “This exhibition seeks to inform people about the terrifying symptoms of diseases like polio or diphtheria and the clear benefits vaccinations have had in decreasing their incidence and impact. There is a popular debate raging about the pros and cons of vaccination. This exhibition provides facts and historical context to help visitors make informed decisions,” she concludes.

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

**Dates & Times:** Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Remarks at 7pm.

**Cost:** Free

Free event parking in Museum (Ann Baillie Building) lot, 32 George St.

The Museum acknowledges support from the City of Kingston and United Way Community Investment Fund and Sanofi Pasteur.



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