

**For Immediate Release**

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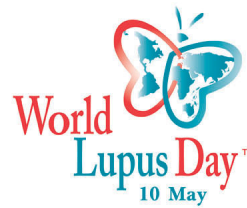
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**Lupus Canada**

**Monday May 10<sup>th</sup> is World Lupus Day!**

**More than five million people**, mostly women, face an unpredictable future as they struggle daily with the often debilitating health consequences of lupus, a potentially life-threatening autoimmune disease that causes the immune system to attack the body's own healthy tissue. Facing the potential of strokes, heart attacks, disabling pain and fatigue, disfiguring skin rashes, and other serious health problems associated with the chronic disease – often in the prime years of life – people with lupus from around the globe have banded together to call for more research on lupus, safer and more effective treatments for the disease, and improved healthcare for those affected by lupus. An international call-to-action has been issued by lupus organizations based in countries around the world to conduct the annual observance of World Lupus Day on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**The World Lupus Day Proclamation**

Please join the international lupus community in urging government to adopt and issue the World Lupus Day Proclamation.

**Whereas**, lupus is an autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and, in some cases, death; and

**Whereas**, more than five million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this disease and each year over a hundred thousand young women, men and children are newly diagnosed with lupus, the great majority of whom are women of childbearing age; and

**Whereas**, medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are under-funded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

**Whereas**, many physicians worldwide are unaware of symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment; and

**Whereas**, there is a deep, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus; and

**Whereas**, there is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities worldwide of the debilitating impact of lupus;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that 10 May 2010 is hereby designated as World Lupus Day on which lupus organizations around the globe call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

**Why Observe World Lupus Day?**

Increasingly, efforts to identify a cause and cure for lupus are being coordinated on the international level. Multiple lupus clinics around the world are collaborating on studies and clinical trials of potential new therapies. World Lupus Day provides both a day and a forum for various findings to be shared with the global lupus community. In addition, observing World Lupus Day offers lupus patients the comfort of knowing their condition is recognized and being addressed on a global level.

Many of these efforts will be highlighted during **World Lupus Day observance on May 10th**. In provinces across Canada, Walk a Block events will be held in May and June to raise awareness and funds for lupus and lupus research. Together Lupus Canada, its Member Organizations and Divisions are working together to conquer lupus. For additional information about our national effort, visit [www.lupuscanada.org](http://www.lupuscanada.org).