



Lupus Canada

*Working together to conquer lupus*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 4, 2010

For Information Contact:

Catherine Madden, Executive Director, Lupus Canada

Tel: (905)513-0004 Ext.222 Fax: (905)513-9516

E-mail: [catherine.madden@lupuscanada.org](mailto:catherine.madden@lupuscanada.org)

### **October is Lupus Awareness Month... yet lupus remains under-recognized and under-funded CELEBRITIES SUPPORT CAMPAIGN FOR LUPUS AWARENESS**

*Markham, ON – October 4, 2010.*

Known as ‘The Disease with 1000 Faces’, lupus affects tens of thousands of Canadian men, women and children. In October, lupus patients and supporters across Canada will recognize Lupus Awareness Month as a time to reflect on what all Canadians can do to increase awareness of this under-recognized and under-funded disease.

Joining in our efforts to promote awareness of this life-threatening and life-altering disease are our Lupus Canada Ambassadors **Colin Mochrie**, **Debra McGrath** and **Patrick McKenna**. Colin is most recognized for his work on *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, Debra recently starred on CBC’s *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and Patrick is best known for playing Harold Green on the television series *The Red Green Show* and Marty Stephens on *Traders*. ***“Having Lupus directly affecting my family makes it easy to be involved with Lupus Canada - but I stay because of all the fabulous work they do”*** says Patrick McKenna.

***“We are thrilled to have such well known Canadian talent helping us to move the vision and mission of Lupus Canada forward through increased awareness”*** says Lupus Canada Executive Director Catherine Madden.

Lupus affects tens of thousands of Canadian men, women and children, yet many people are still unaware of the disease. Between the ages of 15 and 45 though, 8 times more women than men will be diagnosed with lupus. Its symptoms often mimic other illnesses, and it can attack any tissue or organ in the body. Common symptoms of lupus include joint pain, skin rashes, sun sensitivity, extreme fatigue, fever, chest pain and hair loss. It is a chronic autoimmune disease that is life threatening and life altering and for which there is no cure. For this reason, Lupus Awareness Month is a critical way to help people.

A registered charitable organization, *Lupus Canada* provides support to people whose lives have been affected by lupus. One of our main initiatives is increasing awareness of the disease so that while we continue to work towards our vision of *Life without lupus* we can ensure that Canadians are living well with lupus today. For information about lupus, please visit [www.lupuscanada.org](http://www.lupuscanada.org) or call 1(800) 661-1468.

**###**



Lupus Canada

**Lupus Canada Ambassadors  
Patrick McKenna, Debra McGrath and Colin Mochrie**

