

Press Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HepNS to set a Guinness World Record for World Hepatitis Day

The Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia (HepNS) is joining the World Hepatitis Alliance and its members to set a Guinness World Record on World Hepatitis Day on Saturday, July 28th.

“In the past four years over 1000 Nova Scotians have been diagnosed with hepatitis B and C. By participating in a world-wide Guinness Record attempt, we are able to involve as many people as possible in getting the message out about this life threatening illness and the effect it has on the people of this province”—Colin Green, Executive Director, HepNS

HepNS is proud to spearhead the local effort as the global hepatitis community and concerned citizens unite at multiple venues around the world to raise awareness of hepatitis on World Hep Day. HepNS invites Nova Scotians to join in their efforts to set a world record for the most people performing the “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” actions. These actions showcase the need for us to open our eyes, mouths and ears to spread the word about hepatitis. By raising awareness of this serious disease we can reduce stigma, support those who have or are affected by hepatitis, and garner attention from government. HepNS joins with its members and the patient community to call on governments to do more to raise awareness and reduce stigma of hepatitis.

The HepNS Guinness World Record attempt will take place at the Helipad on the Halifax waterfront in front of Bishops Landing at 1475 Lower Water St. The location showcases our Maritime heritage and will be a great backdrop to a YouTube video of the event. Gracious permission by the Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd.

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We are pleased to have Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax, Dawn Sloane, city Councillor for downtown Halifax, and Sunday Miller from Africville Heritage Trust on site, joining us as official counters in our effort to raise awareness for hepatitis.

The record attempt will take place at 12 o'clock to highlight the fact that 1 in 12 people worldwide have hepatitis. Entertainment will be provided from 11:30 am to noon as the crowds are gathering for the noontime Guinness World Record attempt.

Other countries who will be adding their numbers to this effort include; Germany, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Malaysia, India, Romania, China, and the Ukraine.

World Hepatitis Alliance

The World Hepatitis Alliance is a Non-Governmental Organisation established in 2007 that represents more than 280 hepatitis B and C patient groups from around the world. As a coalition of advocacy groups, the World Hepatitis Alliance is a global voice for the 500 million people worldwide living with chronic hepatitis B or C. The aim of the World Hepatitis Alliance is to provide global leadership and support action that will halt the death toll and improve the lives of people living with chronic hepatitis B and C. The World Hepatitis Alliance works with governments to increase awareness and access to treatment as well as to improve prevention, and care and support, with the ultimate goal of eradicating these diseases from the planet. The World Hepatitis Alliance is governed by a board consisting entirely of hepatitis B or C patients and elected by patient groups from the six WHO world regions: Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, Africa, the Americas, South-East Asia and Western Pacific.

For further information visit: www.worldhepatitisalliance.org

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Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia

HepNS is a charitable organization that reduces the impact of Hepatitis on Nova Scotians through support, information, and education. We offer a range of preventative education workshops to youth, health care workers and the general public to raise awareness, combat stigma and provide information on living healthier with hepatitis or while undergoing treatment.

Hepatitis is swelling or inflammation of the liver. Viral hepatitis is a group of liver diseases that can be caused by consuming contaminated water or food, use of contaminated needles or syringes, non-sterile piercing and tattooing equipment or practicing unsafe sex. The most common types of hepatitis are A, B and C.

People infected with hepatitis can experience effects ranging from mild illness to serious liver damage such as liver cancer or failure.

For further information visit: www.hepatitisoutreach.com

For further information, or to speak to a HepNS spokesperson:

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