



grandmothers
Advocacy Network
Mouvement de soutien des
grands-mères

News Release Communiqué

For immediate release

Également disponible en français

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SECOND BIRTHDAY: MPs, community gather in front of Parliament for protest-party to celebrate the promise of access to medicines bill

Bill C-398 up for second reading vote on November 28

NOVEMBER 27, 2012 — In the lead up to World AIDS Day on December 1, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and the Grandmothers Advocacy Network threw a public, outdoor birthday party on Tuesday afternoon across from Parliament Hill to ask Members of Parliament to give the gift of life. Half of all infants born with HIV in the developing world won't live to celebrate their second birthdays, simply because they cannot afford to purchase the medications that would save their lives. Our government can change this, without spending a penny of taxpayer funds.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 28, Canadian MPs have a chance to vote yes on second reading of Bill C-398 and bring those children one step closer to living longer, healthier lives. If passed, Bill C-398 will ultimately reform Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR) and facilitate the export of affordable generic medications to those desperately in need in the developing world. It has already been more than eight years since CAMR was created, but unnecessary red tape has meant the law has been used only once: to send one shipment of one drug to one country. Without reform, it will not likely ever be used again, when instead Canada could be making a contribution to preventing suffering and saving lives.

However, a birthday party is a celebratory event, and so, optimistic that MPs will follow both reason and conscience in their votes tomorrow, scores of people came together to celebrate all those young lives who might now be able to look forward to their second, third and even twentieth birthdays if they get access to medicines.

The time is now to pass CAMR reform. If a majority of MPs vote for Bill C-398 at second reading, the bill will proceed to committee, where its life-saving provisions — including the "one-licence solution" — must remain intact. Humanitarian organizations both in Canada and abroad, faith leaders, prominent Canadians, scientists, medical professionals, and tens of thousands of Canadians have already voiced their opinion and taken action to support CAMR.

Similarly, MPs from all political parties have supported reform in the past, when these amendments passed in the House of Commons in the last Parliament before dying on

the Order Paper in the Senate when the federal election was called. Once again, MPs have an opportunity to transcend party politics and resist the misinformation circulating about the bill. Children in the developing world cannot afford more delays.

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For more information, and photos from the event, please contact:

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For more information: www.medicinesforall.ca

About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (www.aidslaw.ca) promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research and analysis, advocacy and litigation, public education and community mobilization. The Legal Network is Canada's leading advocacy organization working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

About the Grandmothers Advocacy Network

The Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN) is composed of volunteer grandmothers and grand-thers from across Canada (<http://grandmothersadvocacy.org>). We act as a Canadian voice for Africa's sub-Saharan grandmothers who are caring for millions of children made vulnerable by AIDS. We work for changes in Canadian policies to improve their quality of life.