



NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2021

October 24th is World Polio Day

Many in this country have never experienced a time when the risk of contracting Poliomyelitis (Polio) was deeply feared, but until the Salk vaccine was introduced in 1955, thousands of Canadians were crippled or killed by this highly contagious disease. It can strike people of any age, but mainly affects children under five. There is no cure, but this disease is completely preventable with vaccines.

World immunization efforts by Rotary and its partners have helped reduce Polio by 99.9%, but it still exists in certain countries. **Even a single child infected by Polio puts children in all countries at risk of contracting this disease.** According to The World Health Organization, Polio can easily be imported into virus-free countries and spread rapidly amongst unimmunized populations. Unless it is completely eradicated, we could see a resurgence of this disease with 200,000 new cases every year, within 10 years, all over the world.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton wants you to join us in the fight to end polio now.

With polio nearly eradicated, Rotary and its partners must sustain this progress and continue to reach every child with the polio vaccine. Rotary has committed to raising US\$50 million each year to support global polio eradication efforts. Thanks to a 2-to-1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, every donation made to EndPolioNow will be tripled.

Donate today: endpol.io/give

About Us

The Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton is part of Rotary, a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities around the globe. For more than 115 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to improve lives through service. From promoting literacy and peace to providing clean water and improving health care, Rotary members are always working to better the world.

Visit endpolio.org to learn more about Rotary and the fight to eradicate polio. You can also visit us at www.rotarytorontoeglinton.com

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