

Eradicating Polio: #VaccinesWork

Prioritize Vaccines to Eradicate Polio

Last month we launched our [immunizations campaign](#)! Canada has two upcoming opportunities to demonstrate leadership in the fight against vaccine preventable deaths. Both the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) (GPEI) and [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#) are looking to Canada for renewed political and financial support and it is critical that we, engaged volunteers, ensure that our government continues to prioritize vaccines. To start, we're focusing our attention on securing support for GPEI.

Historically, polio was a disease that caused great harm in North America. Tens of thousands of Canadians were affected by polio before a vaccine was introduced in 1955. Because of the devastating impact of polio in Canada, our nation has become a leader in the fight to end polio and played an integral role in developing the first polio vaccine. Since then, we have seen tremendous progress towards ending polio. Globally, an estimated 18 million people are walking today because of the creation and successful implementation of the polio vaccine. With only 33 cases in 2018, the world is .01% away from achieving polio eradication; however, we need one final push to get the job done. The world's most vulnerable and hardest to reach people are still not immunized against the disease.

With an ambitious pledge to GPEI, Canada can be a part of making history. We are closer than ever to making polio the second disease ever to be eradicated. But the threat to lose the momentum we've gained is real. A drop in vaccination rates could lead to this disease resurfacing.

December key dates to watch for

[World Aids Day](#) – December 1

[#GivingTuesday](#) - December 3

International Volunteer Day – December 5

House of Commons in session and Throne Speech – December 5

Human Rights Day – December 10

[Universal Health Coverage Day](#) – December 12

Without a serious final push, a return of this disease to the global stage is entirely possible. The only way we can protect ourselves and others from polio is to prioritize vaccines and create a polio-free world.

Campaign Context

- On November 19 at the *Reaching the Last Mile Forum*, GPEI raised [USD \\$2.6 billion](#) which represents 80% of their fundraising goal.
- We are asking Canada to join other leading countries by pledging CAD \$215 million to GPEI over the next four years ([last pledge was of CAD \\$100 million in 2017](#)) and our hope is that they announce this in early 2020.
- Members of Parliament Dean Allison and Matt Jeneroux have already signed and sent our letter in support of a CAD \$215 million pledge to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- We hope to have a Canadian financial ask for Gavi soon. Canada will be expected to pledge towards Gavi during the replenishment conference hosted by the UK in June 2020.

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Recent Volunteer Activity

Canadians care about investing in a world without extreme poverty. Recent actions of committed citizens included: [in person engagement](#), [letters to the editor](#), published [social media posts](#) and many emails and letters!

Don't see your action? Make sure to track your actions with your [group leader](#) or [Mélissa!](#)

TAKE ACTION!

Engage your MP. Now that you have congratulated your elected MP and they know who you are, it's time to go in with an ask! Send them an email and ask them to sign and [send this letter](#) in support of a CAD \$215 million pledge to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Get writing. Write op-eds or letters to the editor on why Canada should support GPEI with an ambitious pledge. Find a hook in the newspaper or react to current events (like [the USD \\$2.6 billion raised by GPEI](#), [Universal Health Coverage Day](#) or the local campaign for the flu shot) to make the connection in support of Canada leadership in the fight against vaccine preventable diseases like polio.

HOT TIP: Use keywords to get your letter noticed: Canadian aid, polio, vaccines

Take to social media. Tweet to show your support and use [this image](#).

Tweet: The world is closer than ever to eliminating #polio! But beating this disease requires governments to step up their commitment to eradicating polio. Join me in raising awareness on the need for this critical last push to reach every last child and RT! #VaccinesWork #endpolio

Facebook & Instagram post: We are closer than ever to making #polio the second disease ever to be eradicated. Canada, let's be a part of making history. Let's increase our investment and #endpolio once and for all! #VaccinesWork

Learn with your friends. Gather with friends and take a peek inside Bill Gates' brain to learn more about just how politicized and challenging eradicating polio is. Episode two of this trending [Netflix Series](#) is well-timed with our campaign.

Spread the word. Tell your family, friends, and colleagues about the important work you do with Results Canada. Word of mouth is the best way to recruit! Chat in person, encourage people to [donate](#) or share and recruit more volunteers on [social using these images](#).

Resources

Use these tools created to support your advocacy and outreach efforts:

- [Tips on writing to your MP](#)
- [Tips on getting published](#)
- [Tips on tweeting](#)
- [Polio letter for MPs](#)