To the Federal and Provincial Health Ministers,

The HPV Awareness Corporation is urging all provinces to follow the recommendation outlined in the January 2012 NACI statement for boys to be included in the HPV vaccination school-based programs starting in fall 2013 and to implement a catch-up program similar to that offered to females. All existing scientific data indicate that a high level of long-term protection against HPV-causing cancers is expected from HPV vaccination. We concur with The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) that says a gender-neutral program will also help remove the sexual stigma which has impeded successful uptake of the HPV vaccination. It will also solve another issue that we are hearing and seeing throughout Canada, in every demographic, that the cost of the vaccine is a barrier for many families.

Dr. Marc Steben, Medical Director of Clinique A and 2010 International HPV Research meeting Chairman says, “HPV does not discriminate. There is a definite burden for both males and females of all ages; it will harm individuals, couples, families and societies. Present Canadian vaccine programs discarding NACI’s recommendations discriminate against men in general, this includes men who have sexual relations with males, HIV positive men, and all those with current or future immunodeficiency because of disease or their treatments.”

PEI was proud to be the first to announce an expansion to its HPV vaccination program to include boys; they felt it was important to invest into the current and future health and well-being of their islanders. Alberta announced their intention to extend the program to boys with the mindset of addressing the risk of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer in their Cancer Plan. We encourage the province of Alberta not to wait and to include boys in its HPV school-based program this fall. All Canadian boys deserve the same access to this vaccine and protection against contracting and spreading HPV.

Partnered with The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) and The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada (GOC) in Canada, HPV Awareness is a national, bilingual, registered charity, and our organization is the only one of its kind in Canada raising awareness of HPV, primarily through our educational program. Since 2006, we have been providing HPV education throughout our Canadian school systems with students of all ages, their parents, and faculty.

Sincerely,

Teresa Norris
President and Spokesperson
HPV Awareness Corporation