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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

N E W S R E L E A S E

Response to Netflix's Comedy Special "Tom Segura: Disgraceful"

Calgary, Alta. - The Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) promotes the use of value-neutral language that respects the unique strengths, skills, and talents of persons with Down syndrome. The new comedy special "Tom Segura: Disgraceful" on Netflix uses the R-word and suggests replacing the derogatory term with "21st chromosome". This language is offensive and disrespectful and only contributes to lessen the abilities and diversity of citizens with Down syndrome.

"You should say it is never okay to use the R-word. By using that word on TV you are setting a terrible example," says Self-advocate Alana Gersky VATA member. "You should be saying that it is okay to have Down syndrome. There is nothing wrong with having an extra chromosome. We all have the same rights as anyone else. It is okay to be different."

Using the R-word to refer to situations or ideas they are not only devaluing the life of persons with disabilities but also the situation.

"I really want Mr. Segura to know that you cannot say the R-word," says Self-advocate Paul Sawka, Awareness Leader at CDSS. "It hurts not only my feelings, but also my family and friends. Words like this it makes me feel very mad that you don't think I have a great life. I do have a great life. When you use this word it makes us look bad and shows no respect to our feelings."

CDSS demands Netflix to remove Mr. Segura's comedy special as its use of derogatory terminology only promotes negative assumptions of persons with disabilities. CDSS would like to give Netflix and Mr. Segura the opportunity to learn about the importance of value-neutral language, the abilities of all people, including those with Down syndrome, and that the R-word is a derogatory term.

About Canadian Down Syndrome Society:

The Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) is a vital resource linking individuals, parents and professionals through advocacy, education, and providing information. CDSS is proud to be the voice of Canadians with Down syndrome and their families. CDSS wants all Canadians to 'See the Ability'. Visit www.cdss.ca for more information.

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