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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

# NEWS RELEASE

Response to The Washington Post's opinion article: "[The real Down syndrome problem: Accepting genocide](#)"

**Calgary, Alta.** – The Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) represents 45,000 Canadians with Down syndrome and their families. Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always existed and is universal across racial, gender and socio-economic lines. While more needs to be done in Canada for full inclusion of all people, we are proud to be part of a country where differences like Down syndrome can be celebrated and respected.

"In my 30 years of being involved in the Down syndrome community I have seen huge strides and in both the health and the lives of people with Down syndrome but also the success and contributions of people with Down syndrome," says Kirk Crowther National Executive Director of CDSS. "The possibilities for people with Down syndrome are limitless and by creating an inclusive society in Canada we are allowing those individuals to reach their full potential."

This may not be the case in many countries around the world. In recent years countries like Iceland and Denmark have claimed to have almost 'eradicated' Down syndrome. Since Gerber's Spokesbaby Lucas was announced several people have called on countries like Iceland and Denmark asking if Down syndrome can still be seen as a 'problem'.

CDSS believes that fair and balanced information is necessary when delivering a Down syndrome determination. We encourage all expectant parents to reach out to their local Down syndrome communities and learn more about the experiences of parents and self-advocates (adults with Down syndrome). CDSS has resources available to new parents that offer stories and facts about the reality of having a child with special needs. Every woman should be able to make a choice that is best for herself and her family, but the choice should be one based on fair and balanced information, not misinformation and fear.

Canada has benefited greatly by the contributions of people with Down syndrome. People with Down syndrome are contributing to their communities - many are attending post-secondary institutions, working meaningful jobs, and getting married. When given opportunities to succeed, people Down syndrome are positively adding to a family's life, a community's diversity, and to society at large.

**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](http://www.cdss.ca) for more information.*

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