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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEWS RELEASE

VATTA and World Down Syndrome Day 2018

Calgary, Alta. - The Canadian Down Syndrome Society's (CDSS) encourages Canadians to celebrate people with Down syndrome in Canada and around the world for World Down Syndrome Day annually on March 21st. World Down Syndrome Day gives people around the world the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions made by people with Down syndrome.

CDSS's self-advocate steering committee, VATTA, is excited to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day across Canada in their own communities showcasing the ability of people with Down syndrome first-hand. VATTA promotes the abilities of people with Down syndrome and highlights topics such as education, inclusion, employment and language.

Since the development of the committee in 2005 VATTA has had amazing opportunities to stand up and be a voice for others in the Down syndrome community who might not be able to use their own. VATTA has spoken both nationally and internationally. In 2014 VATTA created a short video called "What Prenatal Testing Means to Me" and in 2015 "Picture the Possibilities."

Our VATTA members are located in different places throughout the country (Timmins, Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario; Tillsonburg, Ontario; Calgary, Alberta; Edmonton, Alberta; and Regina, Saskatchewan). If you're interested in speaking with a VATTA member please reach out to CDSS and we will put you in touch with the closest member.

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.

About VATTA (Voices At The Table for Advocacy)

VATTA (Voices At The Table for Advocacy) is a small group of self-advocates facilitated by CDSS to act as a reference and work in conjunction with the Board of Directors and the operations. VATTA has been part of CDSS since 2005. VATTA aims to give the Board of Directors guidance on key issues important to them and how to better communicate with self-advocates.

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