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Respect for Human Life

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(905)206-9740

For Immediate Release

CIHR Misleading the Canadian Public?

On March 4th CIHR released its Guidelines on Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research. Jakki Jeffs, Executive Director of Alliance for Life Ontario asks why is CIHR misleading the Canadian Public?"

"Where is the evidence- where are the facts?" Jeffs asks, "To date destructive human embryonic research has an abysmal and horrific record with no evidence that it will be successful in alleviating any illness, disease or injury in human beings - what scientists see is only "potential""probable" "maybe someday" and that is just not good enough when a viable, currently proven successful and moral alternative is available."

Canadians taxpayers will be cheated if public funds are poured into the "black hole" of destructive embryonic research. "The CIHR guidelines serve unethical, unnecessary and immoral scientific research and profit-driven business - not those who are suffering." Jeffs added, "Dr Bernstein CIHR president, has been quoted as saying," "The weight of scientific evidence is that embryonic stem cells, at the moment at least, from what we know, hold the greatest promise and potential.' this is an appalling statement to make given the real situation and the advances made in peer reviewed adult stem cell research over the last few years - both in current treatment and potential!"

Suffering Canadians will be cheated of available help and the public will be cheated of their ability to make informed decisions concerning this research - since they are not being provided with the truth about adult stem cell research. This is an unconscionable situation.

"The CIHR guidelines are a sham, they have not been subjected to an informed public debate and they have circumvented our legislative process - a moratorium should be in place until the Canadian public has an opportunity to understand the real facts," Jeffs concluded.

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Contact: Jakki Jeffs
Executive Director 519 824-7797 (w) 821-9604 (h)

Peter Ryan
President LifeCanada
506 459 8990