

Invitation to join your Ottawa colleagues in a
National Day of Action for Refugee Health Care

We want to advise you of plans to continue to speak out against the upcoming changes to the Interim Federal Health (IFH) program. As you likely know, significant cuts to the health care services refugees are able to receive come into effect June 30th. As a fellow health care provider we invite you to join us as we challenge the federal government to reverse this decision.

A National Day of Action is scheduled for Monday June 18th, with events taking place in cities throughout Canada. In Ottawa, the event will begin at 12 noon on Parliament Hill.

A group of Toronto physicians (Doctors for Refugee Care) have taken the lead in organizing these protests nationwide. They chose the 18th as it is expected that week will be the last week the House of Commons sits before summer break. They are hopeful that a series of well attended events across the country will sharpen the political debate on Parliament Hill and spur the opposition parties to engage more specifically on this issue. In addition World Refugee Day follows two days later, and they expect public attention and momentum to build throughout the week.

Please make yourselves available to join Ottawa health care providers on the 18th and make our voices heard. To maximum the visual impact of the action and to reinforce the health care message, we are asking all health care providers to wear lab coats or other visual symbols of their roles.

Further details of the event will follow. In the interim, please spread this invitation to all you know who are involved in refugee health care. We also hope those who work with the refugee population in other capacities will join us in support of protecting health care for refugees.

If you are able to attend on the 18th, please contact us at ottrefugeehc@gmail.com so we can gauge how many people to expect. For background about the changes, other ways you can show support and links to media coverage to date visit www.doctorsforrefugeecare.ca . You can also follow us on twitter @OttRefugeeHC

Thank-you for your involvement to date. Numbers give strength to our voices, and we need all of you to advocate for the protection of health care services for refugees!

~ Tobey Audcent, Alison Eyre, Carol Geller, Doug Gruner, Chuck Hui, David Ponka, Mark Tyndall and Megan Williams

Steering Committee for Ottawa June 18th Day of Action