

Our Gift to the World: Polio Eradication Squamish Rotary



Our Commitment ...A promise to all children

Not long ago, the world was paralyzed by the fear of polio. More than 125 countries were polio endemic, and thousands of families watched as the disease killed and crippled, 1,000 people a day, most of them children. In 1985 Rotary launched **PolioPlus**, a multimillion-dollar initiative to immunize all the world's children against polio.

Our Progress...A lasting and extraordinary gift

Since 1985, more than two billion children have received the oral polio vaccine. Reported polio cases have dropped 99.8 percent—from 350,000 a year in 1988 to fewer than 2,000 a year today— and only four countries—Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan—remain endemic.

Squamish Rotary has long supported efforts to eradicate polio. Beginning with Rotary's initial fundraising drive in 1985, members of the Rotary Club of Squamish have conducted fundraisings and made donations to contribute more than their share to the drive to eradicate this crippling disease.

Our Challenge...A realistic and manageable goal

The greatest challenge in the battle against polio today is financial. Rotary's goal is to raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children.

Our Legacy...A chance to make a difference

There is now an unprecedented opportunity to finish the job and eradicate polio. Squamish Rotary club will continue to play their part over the next three years to help meet this challenge. As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are high.



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