To whom it may concern:

Polio was an enormous threat to many in Canada and the United States with the last case reported in 1979. There are about 400,000 survivors of paralytic polio in the United States and 40,000 in Canada. Although vaccination fortunately eliminated polio in North America, polio is still spreading in some parts of the world.

An unanswered question is why some people developed complications, such as paralysis, and others did not. Most people who were infected did not develop paralysis or death. It is possible that there is a genetic predisposition to developing polio, that is, some people may have a variation in their genes that lead to complications when they are infected with polio virus.

McMaster University—Faculty of Health Science are currently undertaking a study to find out whether there were genetic variations that lead people to develop paralysis following infection with the polio virus in Canada and the United States. They want to invite you to take part in their Polio Genomics Research Study. If you chose to participate in the study you would be helping researchers gain important knowledge and understanding about why some people developed paralysis and other did not and how the immune system may have responded to the polio virus. The information could help development of therapies for polio and related virus.

This is a voluntary study. If you are interested in participating please contact McMaster University for more information and to learn about the next steps.

Sincerely,

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