

News Release

Beyond our Borders: HPIC and Rx&D Sign Agreement to Provide Hope in the Developing World

Signing Ceremony held in Mississauga

TORONTO, November 14, 2006 – Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) and *Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)* today signed a formal partnership agreement to help speed the delivery of medicines, vaccines, and other supplies to people in need across the developing world.

"This agreement will help us bring medicines and vaccines directly to the people who need it most," said HPIC President John Kelsall. "Our relationship with Rx&D provides healing and hope for many who suffer because of famine, poverty, disaster, conflict and disease throughout the world."

"We're excited about this formal partnership which increases opportunities for our community to make a difference by providing treatment for people who are suffering in places like Afghanistan and more than 100 countries," said Rx&D President Russell Williams. "Our commitment to fight disease, improve health and save lives extends beyond our borders."

HPIC is a Canadian medical aid agency that provides donated medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and devices to Canadian doctors and NGOs working internationally, and to developing countries in need of medical aid. Health professionals use the Physician Travel Packs made available through this partnership. Whether it is providing medications to fight infection caused by HIV/AIDS, cholera and other diseases or providing hope and healing after disaster strikes, HPIC has been there to lend a helping hand.

This agreement will strengthen the mutual response of both HPIC and Rx&D to humanitarian crises and will help to improve the health and lives of children and adults in impoverished countries. In addition, it will also provide greater stability and a more co-ordinated approach to giving while raising awareness which will help in attracting more donors.

Mr. Kelsall and Mr. Williams were joined in signing the agreement by Rx&D Chairman Paul Lucas and the Honourable Jake Epp, HPIC Chairman and Canada's former Minister of Health. The ceremony brought together leaders in the biopharmaceutical community and their partners in delivering aid to the developing countries.

Rx&D member companies contributed to the very first HPIC shipment in 1990 and since then have provided nearly \$145 million in medicines and vaccines to HPIC humanitarian missions. Today's signed agreement formalizes the relationship between the two organizations.

In addition, Rx&D and its global affiliates have provided billions of dollars in donated medicines and vaccines to people in the developing world while working in partnership with development agencies to build clinics, train health professionals and promote health, especially among women and children.

About HPIC

Providing health and spreading hope is the mission of Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), a Canadian humanitarian organization that sent its first shipment of medical aid in 1990. HPIC has provided more than \$200 million (wholesale value) in donated medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and devices since 1990 to 116 countries. HPIC partners with Canadian companies, government agencies, medical professionals, aid agencies and individuals from across the country to provide medical aid. Together with its partners, HPIC is improving the health and lives of children and adults in the developing world. For more information, visit: www.hpicanada.ca

About Rx&D

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) is an association of members dedicated to improving the health of all Canadians. As partner of the health-care system, our discoveries help eliminate the need for medical procedures such as surgery, which have a significant impact on patient quality of life and health-care budgets. Our community represents over 22,000 men and women working for more than 50 member companies in Canada and is responsible for generating 100,000 jobs across Canada. For more information, visit: www.canadapharma.org.

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