



Health Partners International
of Canada
Partenaires Canadiens
pour la Santé Internationale

Notes for Remarks by

The Honourable Jake Epp, P.C.
Chairman
Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC)

at

Beyond Our Borders
Signing Ceremony

Toronto, Ontario

November 14, 2006

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Introduction

Thank you, John.

Last year, we celebrated our 15th birthday. What we've built together over those 15 years -- and what you see here in this building -- is proof that we are ready to act quickly and decisively when disaster strikes.

Somewhere, beyond our borders, there is a child in a developing country who is suffering, who is sick, and who isn't aware that the medication he or she needs is on the way.

Making a Difference

Children like a little boy, named Yao, who lives in rural Ghana and cannot go to school or play with other children because of painful infected wounds on his legs.

But thanks to HPIC Physician Travel Packs delivered to a nearby clinic, Yao is receiving the antibiotics, wound cleaning, fresh dressings and multivitamins he needs to heal properly. There are literally thousands of stories like this one beyond our borders.

It is here at our warehouse that you can see, first-hand, some of the tools of our work in countries where people are suffering because of poverty, disease, disaster or conflict.

In many parts of the world, people suffer from preventable and treatable infections and diseases. In Afghanistan, for example, a person can expect to live to the age of 42, an age when Canadians are just hitting the prime of life. Most Afghan doctors don't have medicine at all and when they do, it is often low quality and perhaps not what the bottle indicates.

When an Afghan hospital received an impressive shipment of assorted medicines from HPIC, a doctor commented to our staff that now he had medicine that actually works.

What we do with Rx&D medicines is making a tremendous difference.

Why are we signing a formal agreement today with Rx&D, *Canada's Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies*?

It's because our relationship has been growing and gaining strength since 1990. As this relationship has strengthened, we've been able to deliver even more medical aid to regions where it is desperately needed.

It has grown to such stature, in fact, that both the boards of HPIC and Rx&D feel that it is time to formalize our relationship into a partnership. It is a sign of our success in helping others beyond our borders.

Our Partnership

As you've heard, HPIC has safely and effectively delivered more than 200 million dollars worth of medicines, vaccines, supplies and equipment that you see all around you.

We're very proud of that. But we want to do better. We want to help more people. And that's why today's ceremony is so important. With the help of Rx&D, we will be able to do better. We will help more people.

I would also like to recognize and thank all our invited guests for being here with us today to recognize this milestone in a truly important collaboration between our organizations.

It speaks to your commitment to doing more – to helping more people in need – and that's something we will all accomplish together through this great initiative.

Our next speaker, Russell Williams has been a strong advocate for Health Partners International of Canada since he became President of Rx&D two and a half years ago.

There is also no question that his time in public life including 15 years as a member of the Quebec National Assembly has well equipped him as a promoter of innovative and compassionate health care. I now call upon Russell to say a few words.