

Notes for Remarks by

Russell Williams
President

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Industries (Rx&D)

at

Beyond Our Borders
Signing Ceremony

Toronto, Ontario

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Introduction

Thank you, Jake.

The Honourable Jake Epp and John Kelsall have described today's event as not just a ceremony, but indeed a celebration, and I wholeheartedly agree.

Rx&D couldn't be more pleased to be formally joining with HPIC, to help people in need all over the world. And I know that I can speak on behalf of the more than 22,000 men and women who work for the more than 50 research-based pharmaceutical companies that make up Rx&D when I say that all of us feel a tremendous sense of pride today.

Just before we move to what we've all come together for today – the official signing of the agreement – I'd like to reflect on one word in particular. John used the word “partnership” a number of times in his remarks. I think that's a very important word indeed.

It's about Partnerships

Successful partnerships enable those who work together to achieve more than they can do on their own. Since our relationship with HPIC began in 1990, our member companies have provided about 145 million dollars in medicines and vaccines and other supplies.

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. Truly, our commitment to fight disease, improve health and save lives extends beyond our borders.

When you look at the Physician Travel Packs the health professionals carry to the many hot spots, you can see they offer a life line to people around the world.

What has been the result? By providing these much-needed treatments, we've helped restore health, prevent disease, treat illness, ease suffering, cure infections and save lives.

Our Community

Our innovative pharmaceutical community here in Canada, and worldwide, works with more than 25 international organizations and has provided the equivalent of more than 500 million health interventions in the developing world. This medication provides help on the front lines when disaster strikes or when disease takes hold in developing countries.

Our commitment is unwavering and that is why we welcome signing and formalizing our great partnership today with HPIC.

Despite the accomplishments we have achieved – and our collective determination to help even more in the years ahead – we cannot do this alone.

We also need to partner with governments and the international aid community to ensure that they provide sustainable financing and investments in infrastructure, including education, as well as the political will to keep us moving forward in this fight.

By improving health, we also improve global security and help build stronger economies worldwide.

Together, our collective ability to help people in need around the world will be vastly stronger than the sum of the parts. And that is what partnership is all about.

I would like to issue a challenge to John today to get more partnerships and I know he is already hard at work today doing that.

We can make the world a better place, and we are thrilled to be part of this ongoing effort.

An Important Step

Our relationship with HPIC has grown to the point that we are entering into a formal agreement today.

This partnership 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.

It's also important because it will provide greater stability and a more co-ordinated approach to giving while raising awareness which will help in attracting more donors.

Our principles remain the same. They're the principles of innovation and compassion. We are dedicated to finding innovative ways to help others by relieving suffering and providing hope.

I want to offer my own heart felt gratitude to Rx&D member companies and to all the people in our community who have worked so hard to build our relationship and make this day possible.

Shortly you will hear from the chairman of Rx&D, Paul Lucas. Paul is also President and CEO with GlaxoSmithKline. He serves on the Board at Queen's University and is a member of the Principal's Advisory Council of the University of Toronto. He is a former Chair of the United Way Campaign for the Peel Region and continues to play an active role in Canada's philanthropic community through IMAGINE.

But before we hear from Paul, we will take a few moments to sign this important agreement together.

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