

## STATEMENT

### **CANADIANS WILL BENEFIT FROM FOCUS ON HEALTH SCIENCES IN FEDERAL BUDGET, SAYS Rx&D**

**Ottawa, March 20, 2007 – The following is a statement by Russell Williams, President of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), on the Federal Budget presented by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty on March 19, 2007 in the House of Commons.**

“Rx&D applauds the federal government’s support for initiatives that will promote innovation in life sciences in Canada, and increase medical aid to the developing world. The budget also contains measures aimed at streamlining the regulatory system which have the potential to improve our health-care system and promote better access for Canadians to new medicines and vaccines.

“The budget also introduced an innovative tax incentive to encourage the private sector to donate medicines and other health products to help people in the developing world. We strongly support this announcement which will bring healing and hope to the world’s most vulnerable people. This fulfills a recommendation made by the humanitarian aid agency Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC). Our member companies contributed toward the first shipment of humanitarian relief by HPIC in 1990. Since then, Rx&D member companies have provided \$145 million in donated medicines to HPIC for distribution in nearly 120 countries.

“Rx&D welcomes the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for new pneumococcal vaccines, the launch of a national human papillomavirus vaccine program for cervical cancer, the creation of a Canadian Mental Health Commission, and the additional funding for Canada Health Infoway.

“Rx&D has noted the federal government’s decision to continue to fund Genome Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), and government agencies that provide scholarships for post-secondary students. These initiatives will help keep our best and brightest minds in Canada.

“As part of its budget commitment to a wait time strategy, we encourage the federal government to include access to innovative medicines in order to improve the health of Canadians and as an effective way to reduce other wait times.

“Our community also welcomes the opportunity to work with the federal government to improve the regulatory environment as stated in the budget. This could lift barriers that impede access to new medicines and vaccines and improve patient health outcomes. Furthermore, it will build upon the initiative already taken by the government on competitive data protection by improving Canada's ability to attract innovation and research.

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“We also invite the federal government to move forward as quickly as possible to enhance the *Scientific Research and Experimental Development* (SR&ED) tax credit to reward and promote innovation. Extending the SR&ED tax credit will stimulate R&D alliances needed to bring innovative products to market.

“Finally, we look forward to working with the federal government to develop a robust science and technology strategy, which is critical to Canada’s future prosperity.”

*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.

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