

## STATEMENT

### **RX&D COMMENDS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Ottawa, May 17, 2007 – The following is a statement by Russell Williams, President of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), on the federal government announcement today by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a science and technology (S&T) strategy for Canada.**

“Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) commends the federal government on its announcement of a science and technology strategy for Canada.

“The pharmaceutical industry is the only innovative industry in Canada with growing research and development (R&D) and is now the second most important R&D investor surpassing the aerospace industry and gaining ground on Canada's traditional R&D leader, the electronics industry<sup>1</sup>.

“Our innovative industry is well-placed to play a key role in supporting the Government of Canada's key objectives under this strategy and improve Canadians' quality of life.

“In addition, the research-based pharmaceutical community is the leading funder and performer of therapeutic products research and is the largest single source of health R&D research in the business enterprise sector.<sup>2</sup>

“Today's announcement by Prime Minister Harper represents a positive step towards responding to the federal government's intention to ‘develop and implement a new, comprehensive, excellence-based science and technology strategy’ for Canada.

“This commitment to a new science and technology strategy is good news for Canada and sends a positive signal to Canadian innovative industries and international investors that Canada is serious about striving for international excellence by increasing its competitive presence on the world stage. This policy announcement follows BIO 2007 at which delegates discussed the need to have both economic and health policies aligned as part of a strategy to increase Canada's international competitiveness.

“Recent initiatives by the federal government that enhance a science and technology strategy include effective data protection regulations, modernizing Canada's federal regulatory system, and the announcement in the March federal budget to streamline the regulatory system. The regulatory review announced today by the Prime Minister as part of the science and technology

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<sup>1</sup> OECD Main Science & Technology Indicators, *December 2006*

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada Science Statistics, *Estimates of total spending on research and development in the health field in Canada, 1988 to 2005*

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strategy, is important and encouraging news for our community. As noted by Ernst & Young in its *Life Sciences Survey*, regulation 'is one of the primary concerns of pharmaceutical executives' when making business decisions and strategy.

"The global competition to attract research and development investment dollars to Canada by our member companies is intense. A science and technology strategy, with a focus on creating a climate for increased R&D investment, will help Canada attract life sciences investment opportunities, allowing Canada to compete on a global level.

"Rewarding innovation and recognizing the risks included in it, heightens Canada's standing in the global community by making Canadian industries more productive, more competitive, and more innovative. We look forward to partnering with the federal government to further develop the science and technology strategy that will build on Canada's strengths, drive innovation, create new and exciting opportunities in the global marketplace, while at the same time improving health care in Canada."

*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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