

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THE WAY OF THE FUTURE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND FOR CANADA, SAYS Rx&D.

Ottawa (February 2, 2004) - Canada's brand-name pharmaceutical community today welcomed Governor General Adrienne Clarkson's remarks in the Speech from the Throne. In particular, it lauded the recognition of the value of research and development as a solution to our health challenges both here and abroad and of the economic value of innovation in preparing Canada to face the challenges of the future.

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) also expressed support for the federal government's commitment to pursue plans to ensure the delivery of affordable medicines to developing countries.

"The brand-name pharmaceutical community believes that ensuring access to affordable medicines is an important part in an overall plan to deliver care to patients in developing countries," said Jean-Michel Halfon, Chairman of Rx&D.

The innovative pharmaceutical industry has already taken action to fight diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in developing countries, creating or partnering in over 25 aid programs.

"Infectious diseases know no borders as Canadians were reminded during the SARS epidemic last year," said Mr. Halfon. In this regard, Canada's research-based pharmaceutical community is committed to doing its share to prevent diseases and offer innovative treatments.

"The federal government's recognition of the inherent value of R&D is also a step in the right direction. But recognition is not sufficient. It must be followed by concrete action to create an environment favourable to a vibrant, knowledge-based economy," added Mr. Halfon.

In 2002, brand-name pharmaceutical companies invested more than \$1 billion in research across Canada, both in their own laboratories and in university and hospital research facilities.

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) is the national association representing more than 23,000 Canadians who work for some 55 member companies. Rx&D member companies share a single primary objective: to discover new medicines that will improve the quality of health care available for every Canadian.

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