



Western Canada's Quarterly Newsletter from Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies

Discovery



FEDERAL BUDGET 2007: SPECIAL EDITION

Federal Budget 2007:

HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH RESEARCH

Rx&D applauds the federal government's support, through Budget 2007, 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 has the potential to improve our health-care system.

Whether it's the power of vaccinations or the importance of electronic health records, Budget 2007 included areas of interest for all Canadian's:

10-YEAR PLAN TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH CARE

The Government has committed to implementing its plan, which provided \$41.3 billion in new federal funding over 10 years to provinces and territories.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENT WAIT TIMES GUARANTEES

\$5.5 billion is provided to provinces and territories from 2004/05 to 2013/14, to focus on clearing backlogs, training and hiring more health professionals, building capacity for centres of excellence, and expanding programs and tools to manage wait times.

CANADA HEALTH INFOWAY

\$400 million to "support early movement towards patient wait times guarantees through the development of health information systems and electronic health records".

PATIENT WAIT TIMES GUARANTEE TRUST

To support jurisdictions that made commitments to patient wait times guarantees prior to the end of March 2007, Budget 2007 set aside up to \$612 million to help accelerate implementation. Of that money, \$500 million will be allocated on a per capita basis. Of the rest, an additional \$10 million per province and \$4 million per territory is available through the trust to move forward with patient wait times guarantees in areas of "priority": cancer treatment, heart procedures, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement and sight restoration.

PROTECTING WOMEN FROM CANCER OF THE CERVIX

\$300 million set aside to vaccinate Canadian women against the two types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that cause cervical cancer.

PATIENT WAIT TIMES GUARANTEE PILOTS

A one-time fund of \$30 million, to be spent over three years, to assist in undertaking innovative projects that will support implementation of their patient wait times guarantees.

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

\$3 million to establish a commission that will develop a mental-health strategy.

HEALTH RESEARCH COMMUNITY

To support Canada's growing health research sector the budget provides for continued funding of Genome Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). As well, the government will continue to fund scholarships to post-secondary students through government agencies.

TAX INCENTIVE

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.

CANADIAN MEDICALERT FOUNDATION

\$2 million to support a program that provides free MedicAlert bracelets to children.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION (CIHI)

\$22 million to support the organization's efforts in providing health information to Canadians.

FOR FULL INFORMATION GO TO WWW.BUDGET.GC.CA/2007