

Canadian Coalition For Public Health In the 21st Century

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION CONGRATULATES GOVERNMENT ON PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING IN FEDERAL BUDGET

Ottawa, March 23, 2004 – The commitment of the Government of Canada to a strong, responsive public health system was given some life in today's federal budget, announced the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century (CCPH21).

“The Government of Canada has demonstrated its clear support of public health through the appointment of Dr. Carolyn Bennett as Minister of State (Public Health), through the strong pronouncements in the recent Speech from the Throne, and through its financial commitment in today's budget,” said Dr. David Butler-Jones, spokesperson for CCPH21.

The Government's commitment to this ‘first installment’ is an important step toward ensuring long-term sustainability of the public health system. “The Federal Government has recognized that fixing Canada's weakened public health system must be a top priority.”

The members of CCPH21 look forward to working with the government to make a stronger Canadian public health system a reality.

“The Federal Government today has shown tremendous leadership in its commitment in funding to create a comprehensive national public health strategy,” said Dr. Butler-Jones.

- 30 -

The Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century is a national network of non-profit organizations, professional organizations, health charities and academic researchers (see attached membership list). The Coalition's goal is to influence public policy to ensure that adequate public health functions are in place to protect and promote health, to prevent disease and injury, and to have the information that enables the system to improve and sustain the health of Canadians.

For more information and/or interviews, contact:

Dr. Elinor Wilson
Co-chair, Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century at:
(613) 290-6824 (cell)

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Co-chair, Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century at:
(306) 533-5994 (cell)

c/o Canadian Public
Health Association
400-1565 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Z 8R1

Tel: 613-725-3769
Fax: 613-725-9826
E-mail: info@cpha.ca

**Canadian Coalition for Public Health
In the 21st Century
Membership –**

Association of Canadian Academic Health Care Organizations
Canadian Association for School Health
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian College of Health Service Executives
Canadian Dental Association
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
Canadian Diabetes Association
Canadian Healthcare Association
Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute for Population and
Public Health
Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Paediatric Society
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Society for International Health
Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada
Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
Institute of Population Health - University of Ottawa
National Specialty Society for Community Medicine
Canadian Animal Health Coalition
Ontario Public Health Association
Safe Kids Canada
The Lung Association
Susan McBroom, Claire Betker, Regional representatives of public
health concerns
Special Advisors – Maureen Law, Jack Lee, Larry Chambers