

News Release

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ROCK AND FRY ANNOUNCE FUNDING FOR VANCOUVER HEALTH INITIATIVES

OTTAWA- Health Minister Allan Rock and Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Status of Women) Dr. Hedy Fry today announced the Government of Canada's contribution of close to \$1.72 million for 18 community health and research projects in Vancouver. Dr. Fry made the announcement in Ottawa prior to a meeting with the Mayor of Vancouver, Phillip Owen.

“Community health and research initiatives, like those announced today for British Columbia, lessen the impact of illness in our population and promote healthy living,” said Minister Rock. “When we focus on the health of individual communities, we can improve the health of all Canadians.”

“This announcement demonstrates once again the commitment of the Government of Canada to the four-pillar approach of the Vancouver Agreement,” said the Honourable Hedy Fry, federal representative to the Vancouver Agreement. She added, “In order to create a safe, healthy and sustainable city we must continue meeting the needs of specific at risk groups whether they be aboriginal children, women, or those susceptible to HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.”

“Today's announcement shows excellent support for the city's drug strategy that focuses on a four-pillar approach to drug problems in Vancouver,” said Mayor Owen. “On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver, I want to thank the Government of Canada for their generous and positive response to the city's needs.”

Today's announcement complements the \$5.5 million announced by Minister Rock since January 2001 for community health and research projects across British Columbia. The Government of Canada is working together with partners in the provincial, territorial and municipal governments to provide a comprehensive and collaborative approach to population and public health. Funding for the projects announced today originate from the following Health Canada initiatives:



Canadian HIV/AIDS Strategy

In May 1998, the Minister of Health launched a new approach to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada, and committed ongoing annual funding \$42.2 million to the initiative. The Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS has a set of clear goals: prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS infection in Canada; find a cure; find effective vaccines, drugs and therapies; ensure effective care, treatment and support for Canadians living with HIV/AIDS, and for families, friends, and caregivers; minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and communities and counter the social and economic factors that increase individual and collective risk of HIV/AIDS infection.

Aboriginal Head Start Program

In 1995, the Government of Canada established Aboriginal Head Start to help enhance child development and school readiness of First Nation, Métis and Inuit children living in urban centres and large northern communities. In 1997, this program was expanded to First Nations children on-reserve. This initiative is part of the Government's commitments made in Securing Our Future Together and the Speech from the Throne in September 1997. It also responds to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the need to ensure the healthy early development of all Aboriginal children.

Population Health Fund

Health Canada has adopted a population health approach to further continuing its mandate to maintain and improve the health of Canadians. This approach recognizes that many factors, in addition to the health care system, have a strong influence on health. The approach promotes prevention, and encourages positive action on determinants that affect the health of the population as a whole, or that of specific population groups. The goal of the Population Health Fund, which has an annual budget of \$14 million, is to increase community capacity for action on the determinants of health.

Community Action Program for Children

The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), announced in 1992, is co-managed with the provinces and territories. CAPC provides long-term funding to community groups to establish and deliver services that respond to the developmental needs of children, from birth to six years of age, who are living in conditions of risk. CAPC-funded prevention and early intervention activities help children get a better start in life, prepare them for school and improve their chances of growing into healthy adults. CAPC has a total annual budget of \$59.5 million, with \$52.9 million going directly to community groups. There are close to 500 projects in existence across the country.

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Hepatitis C Community-Based Support Component

Hepatitis C Community-Based Support Component is the community-based support component of the Hepatitis C Prevention, Support and Research Program. This component funds community-based programs which respond to the needs of persons infected with and affected by hepatitis C. Activities supported by the Hepatitis C Community-Based Support Component contribute to gaining a better understanding of the nature and effects of hepatitis C infection and how communities can provide support to those who are infected with, affected by or at increased risk of contracting the hepatitis C virus.

Funding for these projects was provided for in previous budgets and is therefore built into the existing financial framework.

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Attachment: British Columbia List of Projects - February 2001 (32030)

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