



Health Partners International
of Canada
Partenaires Canadiens
pour la Santé Internationale

Canadian medicine saves millions of lives around the world

Montreal, QC (March 10, 2008) – Medical aid organization Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) has provided \$250 million of medicines, vaccines and medical supplies to the developing world since 1990, thanks to the generosity of Canadian health-care companies.

“These companies are in the business of health,” says HPIC president John Kelsall. “Through their donations, they are saving lives and offering the gift of health to people living in poverty.”

According to Kelsall, in 2007 alone, Canadian companies donated more than \$45 million of medicines, vaccines and medical supplies. “You can treat a lot of people with that much medicine.”

Companies from the five sectors of the health-care industry – research-based and generic pharmaceutical companies, and manufacturers of vaccines, over-the-counter medicines, and medical devices – have donated the medical products for humanitarian purposes.

HPIC works closely with government agencies, Canadian medical professionals and NGOs to ensure that the medicine is delivered directly to the people who need it most. Medical aid programs include emergency response, community health projects, hand-carried medical packs and capacity-building programs in cooperation with foreign ministries of health.

An increased involvement in Afghanistan has raised the profile of the organization in recent months. In February 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper officially launched HPIC’s program of medical aid for Afghanistan, which began with a commitment to deliver \$3 million of top-quality Canadian medicine to CURE International Hospital in Kabul. Discussions are underway for a major capacity-building program in Afghanistan’s health-care sector.

Kelsall also credits the Canadian International Development Agency for its contribution to HPIC’s work. “Over the years, CIDA has supported our organization in many ways, including emergency response efforts and sustainable development projects.”

Since 1990, medical aid has been provided to communities ravaged by conflict, natural disasters and extreme poverty. According to Kelsall, millions of people who would not otherwise have access to basic health care have been treated and healed.

-30-

HPIC is a medical aid organization dedicated to improving access to health care and medicine in the developing world.

Marg Buchanan
Manager, Media Relations
(514) 695-0007; (514) 402-2270 (cell)
mbuchanan@hpicanada.ca