

BIOTECCanada SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S INITIATIVE FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICINES

OTTAWA [September 13, 2013] – Canada’s biotech industry today welcomed the initiative announced by Federal Health Minister, Rona Ambrose and Alberta Health Minister Fred Horn to enhance multi-stakeholder action on drug shortages.

“Access to safe and effective medicines and therapies are an increasingly critical part of a functioning Canadian healthcare system. Today’s announcement represents an important commitment by the Government of Canada to establish a toolkit and protocol to address supply chain disruptions when they occur,” commented Andrew Casey, President and CEO BIOTECCanada. “Given the objective of the initiative and the complexity of biologic medicines, BIOTECCanada members greatly appreciate being provided the opportunity to work collaboratively with the government and other stakeholders in the ongoing effort to mitigate drug shortages.”

Biologic medicines and vaccines are unique in the context of the drug supply chain due to their complex properties. Correspondingly, producers, regulators and purchasers have developed a supply management process that recognizes the exacting supply requirements associated with biologic drugs. The complexity of biologic medicines – from manufacturing to full supply chain management, underscores the importance of the Drug Shortages Working Group in identifying solutions to ensure Canadian patients have access to the best safe and effective therapies.

Modern medical treatments are improving the lives of Canadians and their families. The robustness of the global biologics medicines pipeline indicates unprecedented levels of innovative products emerging from commercial development. These products will continue to bring solutions into the healthcare system requiring timely and effective regulatory regimes from within the global marketplace. Canada must ensure the needs of patients can be met as the increased global demand for new medicines grows.

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BIOTECCanada is the national industry association with nearly 250 members located nation wide, reflecting the diverse nature of Canada’s health, industrial and agricultural biotechnology sectors. In addition to providing significant health benefits for Canadians, the biotechnology industry has quickly become an essential part of the transformation of many traditional cornerstones of the Canadian economy including manufacturing, automotive, energy, aerospace and forestry industries.

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