



Health and Welfare
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Santé et Bien-être social
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NATIONAL AIDS SECRETARIAT \ SECRETARIAT NATIONAL SUR LE SIDA

DATE: March 11, 1993

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Tabled document
ITEM 12

PAGES TO FOLLOW: 12 pages
PAGE SUIVANT:

COMMENTS: Attached is Minister Bouchard press statement and
COMMENTAIRES: news release announcing the renewal of the
National AIDS Strategy. Ministerial letter and
copy of the complete package will be forwarded to you in the
coming weeks.

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News Release

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MINISTER ANNOUNCES RENEWAL OF THE NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

OTTAWA - New funding for Canada's national strategy to combat HIV/AIDS was announced today by **Benoit Bouchard**, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

"Renewal of the National AIDS Strategy at a time of serious economic restraint demonstrates the federal government's commitment to meeting the challenges of HIV/AIDS," said Mr. Bouchard. "Maintaining a National AIDS Strategy with enhanced funding is a major achievement."

Funding for the National AIDS Strategy will total \$42.2 million annually or \$211 million over the next 5 years. This represents a significant increase over Phase I which was \$37.3 million annually. At a time when federal departments are being asked to reduce programs, this investment is indicative of the federal government's commitment to find a cure to this fully preventable, communicable disease which has reached epidemic proportions.

Through the Strategy much progress has been made in addressing the needs of persons living with AIDS, their families and caregivers. Phase II will build on the progress made to date.

The renewed Strategy sets out the federal government's action plan with identified goals, guiding principles and priorities for the next five years. The objectives are to stop the transmission of HIV; support the search for effective vaccines, drugs and therapies; and, provide care, treatment and support for people infected with HIV, their caregivers, families and friends.

"More needs to be done for persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in order to change public attitudes and behaviour towards HIV/AIDS," said the Minister.

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The annual resource allocation will be:

- ▶ \$ 6.2 million on education and prevention initiatives;
- ▶ \$ 17.8 million for research and epidemiological monitoring;
- ▶ \$ 9.8 million for community development and support to non-government organizations;
- ▶ \$ 5.4 million for care, treatment and support;
- ▶ \$ 1.5 million for coordination and collaboration.

"I have also asked my Deputy Minister to allocate an additional \$1.5 million annually from within my Department for AIDS related initiatives," said the Minister.

As well, the Medical Research Council (MRC) is committed to support AIDS research at \$2 million per year for the next 5 years. Since 1983, MRC has devoted more than \$13 million towards research and training directed at AIDS.

"The challenge of HIV/AIDS must be a concern for all Canadians; we are all living with AIDS," said Mr. Bouchard.

He also called upon all Canadians to work in partnership with governments, community groups, researchers, health and social service professionals, and the private sector.

"We need everyone's involvement," the Minister continued. "In particular, all partners should work with the private sector to mobilize assistance in order to help achieve our goal of a healthy Canada."

In Phase II of the National AIDS Strategy, the federal government will continue to work in partnership with the Canadian AIDS Society, Canadian Hemophilia Society, the Canadian Public Health Association and will seek to involve new partners.

Information:

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Également disponible
en français



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Speech / Discours

Speaking notes
for **Benoît Boivin**
Minister of National Health and Welfare

National Aids Strategy Renewal Announcement
Ottawa, March 11, 1993

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SECRET
P. 8/13

Good afternoon.

I am pleased today to announce the renewal of the National AIDS Strategy.

The goals of the renewed strategy remain the same --

- ◆ to stop the transmission of HIV,
- ◆ to search for effective vaccines, drugs and therapies, and,
- ◆ to care, treat and support people infected with HIV, their caregivers, families and friends.

Building on the progress and partnerships developed in Phase I of the Strategy, Phase II will emphasize five strategic policy directions:

- ◆ enhancing partnerships, improving health promotion for people living with HIV/AIDS,
- ◆ creating supportive social environments,
- ◆ promoting and sustaining healthy behaviours, and
- ◆ recognizing HIV disease as a chronic and progressive condition.

It also emphasizes financial accountability and enhanced program evaluation.

Renewal of the five-year strategy at a time of serious economic restraint demonstrates the federal government's commitment to meeting the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

Funding for the National AIDS Strategy will total \$ 42.2 million annually or \$ 211 million over the next five years.

This represents a significant increase over Phase I which was \$37.3 million annually.

At a time when federal departments are being asked to reduce programs, this investment is indicative of the federal government's commitment to find a cure to this fully preventable, communicable disease which has reached epidemic proportions.

Funds under Phase II of the National AIDS Strategy will be allocated among five key areas:

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- ◆ \$ 6.2 million for prevention education;
- ◆ \$ 17.8 million for research;
- ◆ \$ 9.8 million for community development and support for national non-governmental organizations;
- ◆ \$ 5.4 million for care, treatment and support; and finally,
- ◆ \$ 1.5 million for co-ordination and collaboration.

I have also asked my Deputy Minister to allocate an additional \$ 1.5 million annually from within my department for AIDS-related initiatives.

As well, the Medical Research Council is committed to supporting AIDS research at \$ 2 million per year over the next five years. Since 1983, the Medical Research Council has devoted more than \$ 13 million towards research and training in AIDS.

The challenge of HIV/AIDS must be a concern for all Canadians. The fact is that each and everyone of us is living with the AIDS reality.

I call upon all Canadians to work in partnership with governments, community groups, researchers, health and social service professionals and the private sector.

We need everyone's involvement. In particular, all partners should work with the private sector to mobilize assistance in order to help achieve our goal.

In closing, I would like to say that I believe that the National AIDS Strategy reflects this government's commitment to sound social policy and to a healthy Canada.

AIDS is a problem that we all must address. It has significant implications for public health, human rights, and costs to our economy and health and social service systems.

Within this context, collective efforts by governments, organizations and individuals are essential if we are to achieve our aim of eliminating this devastating disease.

I look forward to the day when a Minister of Health somewhere in the world stands up to announce that the AIDS epidemic is over.

Thank you.