

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

The Public Health Agency of Canada ("PHAC"), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ("ECDC"), each hereinafter referred to as an "Organization" or jointly as the "Organizations",

Considering that it is within the Organizations' common interest to enhance their co-operation;

Taking note with satisfaction of the progress achieved so far on the identification of possible areas of mutual interest concerning an enhanced effort on joint co-operation;

Accepting, within their respective mandates, the joint need to develop information exchange and better mutual understanding between both Organizations;

Accepting, in their joint interest, to increase co-operation between both Organizations, relating to different topics including epidemiological issues, infectious diseases prevention and control and emergency management; and

Acknowledging established professional linkages between the Organizations on surveillance, epidemiological investigation, emergency management as well as pandemic influenza planning and preparedness.

Have reached the following understanding:

### ***I. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding***

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to enhance the co-operation between the ECDC and the PHAC on matters of mutual interest in particular through efforts at information exchange, better mutual understanding and increased co-operation.

### ***II. Areas to which the MOU applies***

Co-operation between the two Organizations will relate to communicable disease matters, including epidemiological issues, infectious diseases prevention and control and emergency management, in accordance with their respective mandates.

### ***III. Mutual Consultation***

The ECDC and the PHAC, where possible and appropriate:

- (a) Will consult each other regularly and endeavour to keep each other informed on strategic matters of common interest, for the purpose of achieving their respective objectives;
- (b) Will consult each other to ensure a degree of co-ordination in regard to matters in which both Organizations have an interest;
- (c) Will each consider the designation of one or more staff members for the maintenance of close, direct and continuing contacts with a view to ensuring the application of the provisions of the present MOU; and
- (d) Will consult each other in the event of an emerging health threat that may affect or concern Canada or Europe.
- (e) May consider the possibility to exchange staff (liaison officers) in the future.

### ***IV. Exchange of Information***

Exchange of information between the ECDC and the PHAC may take place for the purpose of and in accordance with the provisions of this MOU. To facilitate this exchange of information, it may be worthwhile for both Organisations to consider focal point(s) on specific aspects of work, for example: surveillance, emerging threats, public health training, outbreak response and influenza.

### ***V. Confidentiality of Information***

Each Organization will endeavour to ensure that information received on the basis of this MOU will be treated in accordance with its confidentiality and security standards, laws and regulations related to the processing and distribution of information.

### ***VI. Differences of Interpretation or Application***

Any difference regarding the interpretation or application of the MOU will be resolved by consultations between the Organizations.

### ***VII. Amendments***

- (a) This MOU may be amended by the mutual written consent of the ECDC and the PHAC at any time in accordance with their respective requirements.
- (b) The ECDC and the PHAC will enter into consultations with respect to the amendment of this MOU at the request of either of them.

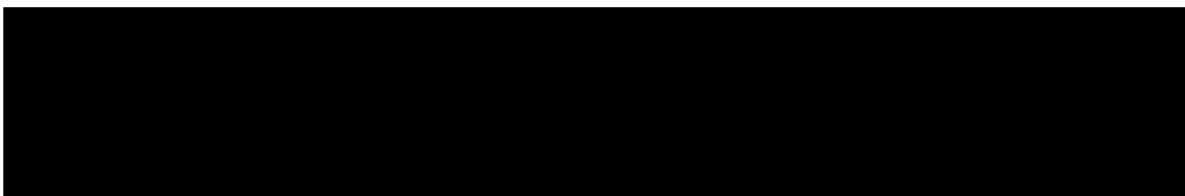
**VIII. Termination of the MOU**

This MOU may be terminated by either Organization upon three months' written notice.

**IX. Coming into Effect**

This MOU will come into effect upon signature by both Organizations.

Signed in duplicate at Beijing, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007, in the English and French languages, both versions being equally valid.



FOR THE PUBLIC  
AGENCY OF CANADA

HEALTH FOR THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR  
DISEASE PREVENTION AND  
CONTROL