

Medical association welcomes Canadian govt funding initiative

The Canadian Medical Association has applauded the Canadian government's commitment to fund various new public health initiatives to the tune of \$Can665 million* (\$US500 million) over 3 years, reports the *BMJ*.

A new public health agency focusing equally on the prevention of infectious and chronic diseases, as well as disabilities, will be established, and has already been likened to the CDC** in the US. The government will also invest in a national vaccination programme; currently, each province operates its own programme. Also, a pan-Canadian public health network has been proposed, to help improve collaboration on public health issues between Health Canada (the Canadian Health Ministry), the provinces and territories.

* Canadian dollars

** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kermode-Scott B. Canadian doctors welcome public health initiatives in wake of SARS. *BMJ* 328: 785, No. 7443, 3 Apr 2004 800967070