



**A Physician Human Resource
Strategy for Canada**

TASK FORCE TWO

**Une stratégie en matière d'effectifs
médicaux pour le Canada**

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL DEUX

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
PHYSICIAN HUMAN RESOURCES**

January 22-24, 2006 OTTAWA

**CONFÉRENCE NATIONALE SUR
LES EFFECTIFS MÉDICAUX**

du 22 au 24 janvier 2006 OTTAWA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Care Organizations Agree on Directions to Address Physician Shortages

February 1, 2006 (OTTAWA) – More than 130 delegates from 60 government and health organizations gathered for a National Conference on Physician Human Resources from January 22 to 24, 2006 and agreed on three strategic directions that require immediate action to address physician shortages in Canada. The official statement from the Conference (see attached) calls for a new national body to coordinate and improve physician human resource planning in Canada; various measures to ensure Canadians reap the full benefits of new ways to deliver health care using teams of various professionals working together; and improved and ongoing research to monitor the demand for, and supply of physicians in Canada to avoid future surpluses or shortages.

“When more than 60 government and health organizations from across this country agree on solutions, it sends a clear signal to all players in the health care system that the time to act on shortages of health professionals is now,” says Dr. Hugh Scully, Communications Co-Chair of Task Force Two, the body responsible for the Conference and for three years of research and consultation that preceded it. “All delegates agreed that the strategic directions we’ve developed are sound and the momentum we’ve built over the last three years simply cannot be lost.”

The National Conference was the largest ever of its kind in Canada and brought together a historic coalition of organizations from all levels of government, various health professions and other key players in Canada’s health care system. In workshops and plenary sessions, delegates assessed and openly discussed strategic directions in five theme areas: 1) Educating and training physicians; 2) Working in teams with other health professionals; 3) Licensure, regulatory issues and liability; 4) Recruiting and retaining physicians; and 5) Improving medical infrastructure and technology.

The three-year multi-phase initiative is one of the Government of Canada’s sector studies in health. Task Force Two’s \$4.8 million budget is funded by the Government of Canada’s Sector Council Program, Health Canada and the medical community (\$1.6 million of cash and in-kind contributions).

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