



Stop Tuberculosis Halte à la Tuberculose
CANADA

www.stoptb.ca

Secretariat: 3 Raymond Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, ON K1R 1A3

Date: 4 February 2003

To: *STOP TB – Halte à la Tuberculose – Canada Membership*

From: Anne Fanning, MD, FRCP(C)
Chair, *STOP TB – Halte à la Tuberculose – Canada Steering Committee*

**RE: World TB Day 2003 Conference
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

Dear Colleagues:

World TB Day will be celebrated March 23rd, 24th 2003 with a *STOP TB – Halte à la Tuberculose – Canada* conference in Ottawa. We urge you to attend to learn the current status of the burden of tuberculosis globally, and its impact in Canada.

Although it is 121 years since Robert Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus in 1882, there are still an estimated 8.7 million cases annually, and 1.9 million deaths. In spite of the fact that an effective strategy to control tuberculosis with DOTS was described by Karel Styblo and the government of Tanzania in the late 1970's, only about 28% of the global cases have access to this curative strategy.

Canada, as a member of the G8, agreed in Okinawa in 2000 to the goal of reducing poverty and diseases of poverty by 50% by the year 2010, and included TB in the diseases of poverty. In order to support the Canadian government's commitment to reduce TB by 50% by 2010, *STOP TB – Halte à la Tuberculose – Canada* formed in 2001 with a goal of using education, collaboration, coordination and advocacy to support the Canadian government's G8 commitment.

This year, in Ottawa, we will convene at the Marriott Hotel Sunday, March 23rd 2003. The morning program will be a review of Canadian funded programs in support of tuberculosis control in India, the Philippines, Indonesia and Ecuador. In the afternoon we will hear from TB controllers in large urban centers in Canada of the impact of the global burden of tuberculosis in the immigrant population.

On the morning of Monday, March 24th 2003, we will meet with parliamentarians committed to supporting global TB control at a press conference, which will be followed by a videoconference with Dr. Ian Smith, acting Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership at WHO, who will give us an update on that Partnership's activities and on the Global Drug Facility, an initiative which was enabled by a contribution of \$15 million from CIDA to provide anti-tuberculosis drugs to those low-income countries whose programs are impeded by inaccess to drugs. Dr. Don Enarson, Scientific Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, will discuss the impact of these initiatives in-country. Then we will hear from Winstone Zulu a patient with HIV and TB who will talk to us from Zambia about the problems of access to drugs in poor countries dealing with health sector reform.

In the afternoon, we will examine the need for global health research into better strategies for TB control.

The massive effort to address issues of TB control globally has been enabled by the commitment of the 22 high-burden countries to amass their best efforts to reach their goal of finding 70% of cases and curing 85% by the year 2005. The estimated cost of this endeavour is \$9.3 billion, of which more than half has been found within these high-burden countries. It is up to industrialized nations to join hands with high-burden countries to assure that the remaining resources necessary to reach the goal are made available promptly. We have challenged resource rich countries to join us in showing solidarity with the STOP TB movement .

Please plan to join us in Ottawa March 23-24, 2003, Marriott Hotel. Program and registration attached

Anne Fanning