



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT:

Gerry Hansen, Executive Director
IPAC Canada
Tel: 204-897-5990/1-866-999-7111
executivedirector@ipac-canada.org

Infection Prevention and Control Practitioners Applaud Federal Investments in Antimicrobial Resistance

OTTAWA (May 12, 2023) - Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) is pleased to recognize Health Minister Duclos' [investment of \\$6.3 million](#) in fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Canada. This investment will be dedicated to the Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X) in support of global and domestic antimicrobial innovation. The CARB-X accelerator is focused on developing new diagnostics, vaccines, antibiotics, and other products to fight antibiotic resistant infections.

"IPAC Canada welcomes this timely investment in both Canada's and the global fight against AMR," said Gerry Hansen, Executive Director of IPAC Canada. "Just a few weeks ago, infection prevention and control practitioners were in Ottawa meeting with officials to discuss the threat of AMR; both the cost to health and the toll on our medical systems. Building on several years of advocacy on this topic, it's a great step by the government to recognize and take action to tackle AMR."

AMR costs Canada's healthcare system \$1.8 billion per year. This cost is the reality when 26% of infections are resistant to the drugs that are commonly used to treat them. That rate is expected to grow to 40% of infections by 2050, which would cost the healthcare system \$7.6 billion if that threshold is reached.

Each year, 5,400 Canadians die as a result of AMR, and that number could grow to 13,700 if the 40% threshold is reached. The current rate of deaths directly attributable to AMR is comparable to Alzheimer's disease, which has been addressed by the federal government with a national strategy and \$50 million in funding.

"Collaboration and innovation will be key to adopting new tools in the fight against AMR," concluded Hansen. "We have seen in the US that a National Healthcare Safety Network has led to a drastic decrease in healthcare-associated infections. Through investments in new tools and Federal-Provincial collaboration on data, we can save lives and make our healthcare system more efficient."

-30-

About: Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) is the national, professional organization for those interested in the prevention and control of infections in all healthcare settings. To learn more, visit: www.ipac-canada.org