



Patient Safety: It's in Your Hands.
Clean them well. Clean them often.

Media Release

Canadian Patient Safety Institute praises Canada's participation in WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge Ceremony marks opening of Canadian Patient Safety Week

Vancouver, BC (October 20, 2006) – Phil Hassen, CEO of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, commended the Government of Canada and all its partners in healthcare as the country officially pledged its participation in the World Health Organization's *Global Patient Safety Challenge*. The announcement of Canada's participation coincided with the official launch of the second annual Canadian Patient Safety Week, October 20 - 27.

"I can't think of a better way to celebrate Canadian Patient Safety Week than to have this country pledge its participation in this Global Patient Safety Challenge," exclaimed Mr. Hassen. "The Health Minister's pledge sends a strong signal of support to the thousands of healthcare workers in all regions of this country who are working every day to make our healthcare system the safest in the world."

Sir Liam Donaldson, Chair of the World Health Organization's World Alliance for Patient Safety, welcomed Canada's statement committing to address healthcare-associated infection, signed by the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health. Sir Liam Donaldson was in Vancouver to present the keynote address at this country's most important professional conference for patient safety – *Halifax 6: The Canadian Healthcare Safety Symposium*.

"Canada's commitment and initiative to address the problem of healthcare-associated infections, signed today by Minister Clement, is an excellent example of the leadership needed to ensure that every patient's right to the cleanest and safest care is achieved," said Sir Liam.

Canadian Patient Safety Week celebrates local and regional initiatives to improve patient safety, with events and activities focusing on this year's theme – hand hygiene and its role in helping prevent the spread of healthcare-associated infections. "Canadian Patient Safety Week is a celebration of the real progress dedicated healthcare professionals and their respective organizations are making in this country to improve patient safety," explained Mr. Hassen. "It's also an important reminder that more can still be done and that we can never stop learning and improving the way we care for our patients."

www.patientsafetyweek.ca

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The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) was established in 2003 as an independent not-for-profit corporation, operating collaboratively with health professionals and organizations, regulatory bodies and governments to build and advance a safer healthcare system for Canadians. CPSI performs a coordinating and leadership role across health sectors and systems, promotes leading practices and raises awareness with stakeholders, patients and the general public about patient safety.

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