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Addressing global threat of antimicrobial resistance

News Release

From [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

Taking action through new investment in antimicrobial resistance research

May 24, 2017 - Ottawa, Ontario - Government of Canada

The emergence of so-called "superbugs" is one of the most significant health threats to Canadians, and others around the world. Tackling Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) requires action on many fronts, including the development of new drugs to treat infections.

The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, today announced \$1.39 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support five research teams whose work will advance innovations in point-of-care diagnostics, with the goal of implementing the best diagnostic tools in health care settings and the right use of antibiotics. This funding is part of the investments the Government of Canada has made over the past year on research to address the emergence and spread of AMR. For example, Health Canada [announced](#) earlier this month several changes to the Food and Drug Regulations that will better protect Canadians against the risk of antimicrobial resistance, by better controlling access to veterinary antimicrobial drugs for food-producing animals.

The Government of Canada has also endorsed the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, and is currently working with our provincial and territorial partners to finalize a Pan-Canadian Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use in Canada. The Pan-Canadian Framework will guide collective action in tackling AMR and identify opportunities for action under four pillars: surveillance, stewardship, infection prevention and control, and research and innovation.

Quick Facts

- AMR is one of the most serious global health threats facing the world today. With no action, it is estimated that by 2050, annual worldwide human deaths attributable to AMR could reach 10 million.
- Canada is addressing AMR from a “One Health” lens. This involves coordinating efforts across human and animal health, and agri-food sectors, among others, to help prevent and control AMR.
- In Canada, rates of antimicrobial resistant infections are generally stable and in some cases have been on the decline. However, even these reduced rates continue to exceed those of the early 2000s. Canada must be prepared to respond to the threat of AMR to lessen the health risks to Canadians in the face of rising rates of drug-resistant infections around the world.
- The overuse or inappropriate use of antibiotics contributes to the development of AMR in people and animals. Examples include:
 - o giving antibiotics to people and animals when they are not needed;
 - o taking antibiotics in ways other than how they are prescribed; and
 - o self-medicating or antibiotic sharing.

Quote:

“Addressing AMR requires sustained efforts across multiple sectors and organizations domestically and internationally. It is only through our collective actions, including this investment in diagnostic research, that we will make real progress in mitigating the threat of AMR. The Government of Canada is committed to ongoing collaboration with our partners and to taking action to ensure that antimicrobials will continue to be an effective tool in protecting the health of Canadians.”

*The Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Health*

Associated Links

[Antimicrobial resistance in animals](#)

[Federal Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada: Building on the Federal Framework for Action](#)

[Backgrounder – Point-of-Care Diagnostics in Human Health – Phase 1](#)

[Point-of-Care funding results details](#)

[Government of Canada takes action on antimicrobial resistance](#)

Contacts

Andrew MacKendrick
Office of Jane Philpott
Minister of Health
613-957-0200

Media Relations
Public Health Agency of Canada
613-957-2983

Public Inquiries:

613-957-2991
1-866 225-0709

Media Relations
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
613-941-4563

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Date modified:

2017-05-24