



## News Release | Communiqué

**For immediate release**

### **GROUPS URGE RAPID REVIEW OF CANADA'S LAW ON GENERIC MEDICINES FOR EXPORT**

***Canadian government must put patients at the heart of legislation***

**TORONTO, AUGUST 18, 2006** — Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network are encouraged by Health Minister Tony Clement's statement at the XVI International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2006) in Toronto on August 16<sup>th</sup> that the Canadian government will launch an immediate review of the *Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa* (JCPA). This law, passed two years ago, is intended to allow Canadian generic companies to produce and export drugs to developing countries. However, the legislation has failed miserably — to date not a single drug has left Canada.

MSF and the Legal Network urge the Canadian government to uphold their commitment and review the legislation immediately. There is concern that the urgency of improving the Canadian legislation will be lost once the spotlight on HIV issues has ended after AIDS 2006.

The end of the conference does not signal the end of this tragic pandemic, as millions of people with HIV/AIDS wait to get access to treatment that could prolong and save their lives. Since the Canadian law was passed in 2004, thousands of people in need of treatment could have been saved. The Canadian government must demonstrate true vision and leadership, making the urgent need for access to medicines central to the rewriting of this, to date irrelevant, legislation.

#### **About Médecins Sans Frontières**

MSF provides antiretroviral treatment to more than 60,000 patients in 32 countries. MSF Briefing Document for the XVI International AIDS Conference, "TOO LITTLE FOR TOO FEW: Challenges for effective and accessible antiretroviral therapy," available at [www.msf.ca/aids2006](http://www.msf.ca/aids2006).

### **About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network ([www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)) promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research, legal and policy analysis, education, and community mobilization. The Legal Network is Canada's leading advocacy organization working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

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For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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Isabelle Jeanson  
Press Officer  
Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders  
Mobile: +1 416 312-3960  
Telephone: +1 416 642-3463  
Toll-free: 1 800 982-7903 ext. 3463  
E-mail: [ijeanson@msf.ca](mailto:ijeanson@msf.ca)  
Website: [www.msf.ca/aids2006](http://www.msf.ca/aids2006)

Leon Mar  
Director of Communications  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Mobile: +1 416 278-3750  
Telephone: +1 416 595-1666 ext. 228  
E-mail: [lmr@aidslaw.ca](mailto:lmr@aidslaw.ca)  
Website: [www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)