

**Remarks by the Honourable Beverley J. Oda,
Canadian Minister of International Cooperation**

GAVI Alliance pledging conference

13 June 2011

London, England

Thank you, Secretary Mitchell, Gavi, and the Gates Foundation.

It is my pleasure to be here on behalf of the Government of Canada and our Prime Minister, Stephen Harper.

Canada commends GAVI on its impressive achievements over the past decade.

However, the eradication and control of diseases that impact infants and children, the most vulnerable in developing countries, is a key MDG, yet to be achieved.

Even though preventative tools are known and success has been achieved, access and equity have been unevenly spread among developing countries.

In 2010, we centred our focus on maternal, newborn, and child health with the launch of the G8 Muskoka Initiative in Canada and the MDG summit in New York.

Canada is focusing its G8 Muskoka Initiative on three key areas:

Strengthening health systems;

Improving nutrition;

And preventing and treating the illnesses and diseases that are the leading causes of death.

Immunization is key to meeting Canada's goals - to do our part to meet the MDGs, and to make a real measurable difference in improving child health and prevent needless infant and child deaths.

That is why, our Prime Minister was proud to co-chair the UN Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health along with the President of Tanzania.

The Commission's Report provides the framework to ensure that, not only are commitments fulfilled and tracked, but that results can be demonstrated and measured.

Immunization is a known cost-effective tool to improve maternal, newborn and child health.

And Canada considers GAVI to be an important alliance in tackling childhood morbidity and mortality.

GAVI's work to increase access to new and under-used vaccines in developing countries must continue and be supported.

That is why Canada is the third largest supporter of the Advance Market Commitment for pneumococcal vaccines with its contribution of \$200 million.

GAVI's demonstrated success in achieving real measurable results in preventing the deaths of millions of children, doing it efficiently and effectively, has won Canada's confidence.

And so, Canada was pleased to be one of the first countries to respond to GAVI's 2010 appeal with a significant multi-year commitment of \$50 million.

And today, on behalf of Canada, I am making an additional commitment of \$15 million dollars.

This brings Canada's total commitment for vaccines to \$65 million over 5 years.

This means that from 2011 to 2015 Canada's support for GAVI's work is \$225 million US. Canada is a leader in fulfillment.

Canada strongly believes in GAVI's mission and is a supporter of GAVI as an effective alliance that will actually make a difference in increasing progress in meeting the 4th Millennium Development Goal.

Canada encourages other governments and donor countries to contribute to immunization and vaccines, a most effective means to reduce infant and child mortality.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with you and GAVI as we move into the critical period before 2015.