

Opening Remarks at the
Teasdale-Corti Health Research Partnership Program
Team Leaders' Meeting

Grand Hall, Canadian Museum of Civilisation, Gatineau
18h30, Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Maureen O'Neil
President, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Mesdames et messieurs, bonsoir. C'est pour moi un grand plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à cette rencontre des chefs d'équipe Teasdale-Corti. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this opening event of the two-forum.

As you may know, the Canadian Conference on International Health ended earlier today. The Teasdale-Corti team leaders' meeting is a natural continuation of that conference.

In 2000, Canada joined the international community in adopting the Millennium Development Goals, committing to a vision that promotes human development as the key to sustaining social and economic progress, and that recognizes the importance of creating a global partnership for development.

We are committed to demonstrating international leadership towards achieving these goals and towards moving closer to the MDG vision.

We are committed to demonstrating international leadership through our support to international health research that responds to the Millennium Development Goals and to the priorities of low- and middle-income countries – as seen and experienced by those living and working in low and middle-income countries.

Within this context, the Global Health Research initiative was established by the four founding partners: IDRC, CIDA, Health Canada, and CIHR:

- GHRI is a first-of-its kind collaborative effort in Canadian History between the major Canadian health research and development agencies, aiming to strengthen and coordinate Canadian efforts in global health research, to address the key priorities of low and middle-income countries, and to actively contribute to closing the 90-10 gap in global health research.
- Through our investment in GHRI we aim to contribute to a stronger and sustainable foundation that is needed for social and economic development while building a basis for equitable and effective bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

The Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Partnership Program, to which you are all actively contributing, is the flagship of GHRI's programming. Through this program, we will demonstrate that global partnerships for development can and do work.

It is not a coincidence that the word "partnership" is in the name of this program. Not only does it refer to partnerships between Southern and Canadian researchers, but, as importantly, it refers to the partnership we hope to build between you as individuals and teams, and GHRI, so that the program as a whole more closely responds to the needs and priorities of researchers and practitioners in low- and middle-income countries.

It is within this context that learning is a key component of this program. We need to learn from you about what works and doesn't work in international partnerships in research, capacity development and knowledge transfer and exchange.

The Teasdale-Corti program started less than two years ago with a relatively modest investment of slightly less than \$13 million. Within this short period, it more than doubled in size. If anything, this demonstrates GHRI's commitment to this initiative. The program was developed to allow for rapid expansion to a \$100 million over ten years. We will be looking at our progress and learning over the coming four years and extracting lessons so that we can make informed decisions about the possibility of renewing and expanding our investment.

I congratulate you on this inaugural forum. Je vous remercie de votre attention et vous souhaite des discussions fructueuses. Thank you.