

As you may be aware, the [Human Pathogens and Toxins Act](http://lois-laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-5.67/index.html) (HPTA) was enacted on June 23, 2009. The purpose of the *Act* is to improve and enhance a safety and security regime to protect the health and safety of the Canadian public against risks posed by human pathogens and toxins. The Public Health Agency of Canada (hereinafter PHAC or the Agency) administers the Act through the [Pathogen Regulation Directorate](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/lab-bio/index-eng.php) (PRD).

The Agency has been given the responsibility of developing a program and regulatory framework for the implementation of the HPTA. This process is being guided by the 2007 *Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulations* (CDSR), which requires a comprehensive management approach to regulating with specific requirements for the development, implementation, evaluation and review of regulations. It also requires regulatory agencies to consult with Canadians extensively throughout the regulatory development process.

As such, PHAC has designed a consultation process to be carried out from the fall of 2011 to 2012 to provide affected and interested parties with multiple engagement opportunities at all stages of the regulatory development process that will support the HPTA. The consultation approach is informed by input and feedback received during face-to-face preliminary discussions with each province and territory in 2010, and electronically with sixteen national associations.

Consultations will comprise both in-person sessions and electronic engagement activities. In fall 2011/winter 2012, PRD will conduct 10-12 one-day in-person consultation sessions across Canada in major city centres. In order to ensure that all interested and affected parties have the opportunity to genuinely participate, PRD will also develop and host a series of electronic engagement sessions for winter 2012. These will mirror the in-person workshops and will allow additional input from stakeholders at their

convenience. Interested parties can also submit questions, comments and concerns to the HPTA Consultation Secretariat via email at hpta.lapht.consultations@phac-aspc.gc.ca <mailto:hpta.lapht.consultations@phac-aspc.gc.ca> at any time.

The following Key Elements will be the foundation of the HPTA consultations and corresponding regulatory, program and policy development.

- **Inventory** requirements;
- **Licensing**;
- Functions and qualifications of **biosafety officers**;
- **Security requirements** for those working with Risk Group 3 or 4 human pathogens or prescribed toxins; and
- The development of an **exposure reporting and prevention program**.

Your organization has been identified as a key stakeholder in the HPTA consultation process. In order to best reach your membership, we are seeking your input in advance of the consultation design process. For in-person consultations, we are targeting the following cities: Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal, Halifax, and Fredericton. It is our hope that you will provide us with information to enable us to reach out to your membership, who may wish to attend consultation sessions in these cities.

Also, we would appreciate any assistance you can provide in disseminating this information to your membership or providing PHAC with relevant contact information to enable us to issue invitations.

If you personally wish to participate in the consultations, please indicate your preferred method of consultation below:

In-person (Fall 2011/winter 2012) _____

Electronic Engagement (Winter 2012) _____

Also, kindly complete the following template to ensure the accuracy of your

contact information in our database:

Full name:

Email:

Phone number:

Organization:

Role:

Mailing Address:

Language of choice for further communications:

English French No preference

Space for Comments:

Please respond with comments and updated contact information to Kailey McLachlan (Consultation Lead), via email at kailey.mclachlan@phac-aspc.gc.ca <mailto:kailey.mclachlan@phac-aspc.gc.ca> by October 26th. If you would like to speak to Kailey McLachlan directly, please call 613-941-3709. Details in regards to consultation sessions will follow in the coming weeks. Additionally, we would greatly appreciate your cooperation in forwarding this email to any of your contacts who may be interested in providing input and/or participating in consultations.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sandra Fry

Director General
Pathogen Regulation Directorate - Emergency Management and Corporate
Affairs
Public Health Agency of Canada