

Dear biosafety stakeholder:

I would like to invite you to a special information session on the government's proposed laboratory biosafety legislation during the [Saskatoon] symposium.

As you may be aware from recent news reports, the government recently introduced into Parliament Bill C-54, the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act. This Act, if passed, would require the safe handling of pathogens in laboratories and would provide legal authorities to guard against the intentional misuse of these substances.

Additional information on Bill C-54 is available on the following website:  
[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2008/2008\\_06bck-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2008/2008_06bck-eng.php).

Given the timing of the symposium, we feel it would be an ideal time to meet in order to provide a briefing on the Bill and the proposed Laboratory Biosafety Programme that underlies it, to answer your initial questions, and to note any concerns that you might have. This meeting is a precursor to a complete consultation process, which may begin as early as next fall.

The details for the meeting are as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday June 4, 2008

**Time:** 9:00am-11:00am

**Location:** Radisson Hotel, 404 20<sup>th</sup> Street East, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

**Purpose:** Provide information; answer questions; listen to concerns.

I look forward to seeing you at that time. In addition, I will be available for the duration of the Symposium to listen to your concerns and answer your questions.

Best wishes,

Marianne Heisz  
Chief, Importation and Regulatory Affairs Division  
Office of Laboratory Security  
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