



News Release

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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REPORTS PROGRESS ON REGULATORY RENEWAL

Ottawa - Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board, today delivered on the Government of Canada's commitment to report regularly on the progress of Smart Regulation initiatives by releasing the second *Smart Regulation Report on Actions and Plans*.

The second edition of the *Report on Actions and Plans* provides information on progress made on regulatory renewal in Canada, including updates on some 40 key initiatives introduced in the Spring 2005 edition, as well as 32 new initiatives. In order to provide transparency, this report indicates both where progress has been made and the few areas where delay has been experienced. The report also describes work underway to improve regulatory management throughout the federal government; current and planned activities in the key area of regulatory co-operation and coordination; and the role of citizens and stakeholders in helping to shape regulatory reform.

"In the short time since we launched Smart Regulation, in March 2005, we have made early strides and I am proud of the progress that has been accomplished. Yet much more work remains to be done. We are fully committed to this ongoing initiative to build a robust regulatory system that is more responsive and relevant to the needs of Canadians," said Minister Alcock.

Progress has been made on initiatives such as the Therapeutics Access Strategy where the review backlog for pharmaceuticals has been eliminated and review times substantially improved. In fact, between January and September 2005, 58 percent of submissions were reviewed within time targets, up from 13 percent in 2003. Health Canada expects to reach the international threshold of 90 percent by March 2006. Another progressive initiative, BizPal, will allow 233 different types of businesses to access all municipal, provincial and federal permit requirements through one Internet site, saving time and money for clients. The pilot project partners are the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario, the Yukon Territory, the region of Halton, and the municipalities of Kamloops and Whitehorse.

New departmental initiatives are presented in the report as well, including a proposed legislative initiative that would support First Nations involved in major commercial and industrial projects by developing a regulatory framework to strengthen economic development on reserve. In another new initiative, four sector sustainability tables (forests, mining, energy and chemicals) have been created to bring stakeholders together to provide informed advice on how to improve environmental performance in a way that supports long-term competitiveness.

“The government is committed to the continuous improvement of public sector management and Smart Regulation is an integral part of this agenda. The ongoing involvement of citizens and stakeholders is key to achieving success in reforming our regulatory system and creating smart regulations,” concluded Minister Alcock.

The *Report on Actions and Plans* and regular updates are available on the Smart Regulation Web site at www.regulation.gc.ca

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For more information, contact:

Lise Jolicoeur
Press Secretary
Office of the President of the Treasury Board
and Minister responsible for the Canadian
Wheat Board
(613) 957-2666

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