

Pandemic preparedness meeting with Ottawa diplomatic community.

DFAIT held a successful pandemic briefing session with members of the Ottawa diplomatic community on January 29, 2007. The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Committee had been planning this session to tie in with the release of the updated Government of Canada Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health sector.

The event attracted 115 diplomatic staff from 88 missions, of the 110 located here, including 17 Heads of Mission. The 1.5 hour session included remarks by Dr. Arlene King of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on the recently released PHAC pandemic plan, an outline by Robert Fry, DFAIT's Senior Departmental Coordinator, Pandemic Preparedness on DFAIT's preparedness, and comments by Sandra Black of the Canadian International Development Agency and Dr. Jim Clark of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Participants received a handout package containing a summary of the PHAC plan, the DFAIT brochure prepared for the International Pledging Conference in Bamako, Mali, and some material from the City of Ottawa Public Health Unit on pandemic planning and personal preparedness.

Feedback on the meeting was positive. About 47% of missions said they did not have a pandemic preparedness plan; 41% said they did and the remainder were not sure, in progress, or no reply.