Purpose and Scope of the HPTA

The Human Pathogens and Toxins Act received Royal Assent on June 23, 2009. The purpose of the Act is to establish a safety and security regime to protect the health and safety of the public against risks posed by human pathogens and toxins. The HPTA applies to persons conducting specified activities with human pathogens and toxins. "Person" includes a corporation, individual, organization, partnership or public body.

The Public Health Agency has been engaged in a four-year, multiple phase consultation with stakeholders concerning the development of the program and regulatory framework for the *Human Pathogens and Toxins Act* (HPTA). Phase II was completed in summer 2012, and sought stakeholder input regarding the issues of:

1. **Licensing**
2. Functions and qualifications of **Biosafety Officers (BSOs)**
3. **Inventory** requirements
4. The development of an **exposure reporting and prevention program**
5. **Security Requirements** for those working with Risk Group 3 or 4 human pathogens and certain toxins

This current phase of engagement (Phase III) will seek stakeholder input regarding the Agency's proposed policy approaches to these same issues and identify any potential operational challenges to implementation. Your recommendations, suggestions and comments regarding the proposed approaches will assist the Agency in further refining the program and regulatory framework for the HPTA.

This invitation is being circulated to colleagues and stakeholders who may be interested in participating in an HPTA engagement opportunity (either in person or online). For planning purposes, PHAC requires confirmation five business days prior to any in-person event.

Please confirm your attendance and direct any questions or concerns to Lody Nesrallah, Outreach Officer, at hpta.lapht.consultations@phac-aspc.gc.ca or by telephone at 613-941-3709 indicating your preferred event (based on the sector session from the list below that best represents your organization), the sector to which you belong, your role and the official language of your choice. Logistical information and background material will be sent to you upon registration confirmation no later than two weeks prior to each event. An electronic engagement process will also be launched spring 2013 for stakeholders who are unable to attend an in-person event.

Sector-specific Consultation Sessions:

1 – Ottawa, ON (Bilingual session)

1.1) March 19, 2013 – Federal Government

2 – Vancouver, BC

2.1) March 26, 2013 – Academic Research (including Hospitals)

2.2) March 27, 2013 – Hospital/Private Diagnostic and Other Sectors

2.3) March 28, 2013 – Industry (Biotechnology

3 - Toronto, ON

3.1) April 9, 2013 – Academic Research (including Hospitals)

3.2) April 10, 2013 – Hospital/Private Diagnostic and Other Sectors

3.3) April 11, 2013 – Industry (Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical)

4 – Halifax, NS (Bilingual session)

4.1) April 16, 2013 – Academic Research (including Hospitals)

4.2) April 17, 2013 – Hospital/Private Diagnostic and Other Sectors

4.3) April 18, 2013 – Industry (Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical)

5 – Montreal, QC (Bilingual session with simultaneous translation)

5.1) April 23, 2013 – Academic Research (including Hospitals)

5.2) April 24, 2013 - Hospital and Private Diagnostics

5.3) April 25, 2013 – Industry (Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical)

Attached documents:

- **Invitation to Consultations**

(See attached file: Phase 3 Invitation to ConsultationsV4.pdf)

- **Invitation aux consultations sur la LAPHT**

(See attached file: Phase 3 Invitation to ConsultationsV4 FR.pdf)

- **Overview of the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (HPTA)**

(See attached file: HPTA Paper Final.pdf)

- **Aperçu de la *Loi sur les Agents Pathogènes Humains et les Toxines (LAPHT)***

(See attached file: Document d'engagement - LAPHT.pdf)

Distributed on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada.