

COALITION FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS INNOVATIONS

BACKGROUND

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was created in 2017 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in response to a consensus on the need for a concerted, international and intergovernmental plan to develop and deliver new vaccines against priority emerging infectious agents and to provide equitable access to these vaccines to populations affected by epidemics.
- This public private partnership brings together governments, philanthropic organizations, the industry, universities, civil society organizations and other global health stakeholders.
- CEPI's mission is to actively develop vaccines against priority emerging infectious agents that disproportionately affect the developing world (e.g. the Ebola, Lassa, Marburg and Nipah viruses and MERS) but are unlikely to be developed because market opportunities are small (i.e. for vaccines against emerging infectious diseases, volumes are insufficient and the development and market uncertainty is too great for biomedical companies to justify significant private investment).
- Since its creation, CEPI has been aware of the need to develop vaccine platforms for unknown diseases (called "disease X") to give the world a head start when a new disease with epidemic or pandemic potential emerges (e.g. COVID-19). In this regard, CEPI moved quickly in January 2020 to activate its "disease X" network for COVID-19.
- CEPI was mandated to co-lead (with Gavi) the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and it determined that the immediate need for funding was US\$2 billion. **Under COVAX, CEPI is leading the research, development and manufacture of vaccines against COVID-19.**
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- CEPI has already raised approximately US\$1.3 billion, **including CAN\$40 million (~US\$28 million), pledged on April 5, 2020.**

Canada's contribution to CEPI

- Under GAC's Weapons Threat Reduction Program, Canada previously contributed \$14 million to CEPI, as announced by the Prime Minister at the G20 summits in Hamburg in 2017 and Buenos Aires in 2018. The Weapons Threat Reduction Program represents Canada on CEPI's investors' council and governing board.
- Canada's contribution to CEPI is actively supported by the National Research Council of Canada, which provides technical and scientific assistance along with Canada's interdepartmental committee on vaccine research, innovation and development, composed of experts from the CFIA, CIHR, DND, DRDC, SC, IDRC, NRC and PHAC. **NRC and PHAC's National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) are in discussions with CEPI to support basic research and animal studies in vaccines candidates as part of CEPI-funded global efforts**