

## **Canadians want access to approved medicines without delay**

(Ottawa, Canada – March 17th, 2008) – A new national study of Canadians shows that a very strong majority favour better access to medicines approved by Health Canada.

In the survey, conducted by Nanos Research, 85% of Canadians agreed/somewhat agreed<sup>1</sup> that they should have access to medicines approved by Health Canada without delay. Likewise, 91% of Canadians agreed/somewhat agreed<sup>2</sup> that regardless if one had a provincial or private drug plan, one should have access to the best medicine available in Canada.

“The issue of access to the best medicines, strikes at the very heart of our healthcare system,” said Nik Nanos, President of Nanos Research. “I’m sure for average Canadians, or those who need a medicine for a loved one, the issue is quite simple, if Health Canada has approved a medicine then one should have access to that medicine.”

Of note, the same study found that only 11% of Canadians were aware of the Common Drug Review which assesses medicines after they are already approved by Health Canada. A majority (65.2%)<sup>3</sup> that this extra step, after the medicine has been approved as safe, was considered an extra layer of red tape.

Between February 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 a total of 1,001 random telephone interviews were conducted by Nanos Research across Canada. The survey of 1,001 randomly selected individuals is accurate  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20 and was commissioned by Canada’s Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies.

For the detailed statistical tables please visit the Nanos website at [www.nanosresearch.com](http://www.nanosresearch.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Agreed (63.1%) or somewhat agreed (21.6%)

<sup>2</sup> Agreed (77.0%) or somewhat agreed (14.3%)

<sup>3</sup> Agreed (41.2%) or somewhat agreed (24.0%)

Question - Have you ever heard of the Common Drug Review?

Avez-vous déjà entendu parler d'un organisme nommé Programme commun d'évaluation des médicaments ?

		Total	Heard of Common Drug Review	Not heard of Common Drug Review	Unsure
		Responses	%	%	%
Region	Canada 200802	1001	10.7	88.3	1.0
	Atlantic	105	14.5	84.8	.7
	Quebec	253	8.7	90.8	.5
	Ontario	302	11.1	88.6	.3
	West	340	10.6	87.3	2.0
Gender	Male	493	8.6	90.5	1.0
	Female	508	12.7	86.3	1.0
Age	18 to 29	197	9.5	89.7	.8
	30 to 39	192	8.8	90.6	.6
	40 to 49	217	11.1	87.6	1.3
	50 to 59	171	9.3	89.9	.8
	60 plus	224	14.1	84.6	1.2
Home	Own	737	10.9	88.0	1.1
	Rent	264	10.2	89.2	.6

Once a medicine has been approved by Health Canada, another body, the Common Drug Review, assesses the medicine and then an individual province can do its own review before it decides if the medicine will be paid for or reimbursed under the provincial drug plan.

Based on what I have just told you, please indicate whether you agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, disagree with the following statements.

Lorsqu'un médicament est approuvé par Santé Canada, il est ensuite évalué par un autre organisme, c'est-à-dire le Programme commun d'évaluation des médicaments. Par la suite, les provinces peuvent choisir de faire leur propre évaluation avant de décider si ce médicament sera couvert par le régime provincial d'assurance-médicaments.

Compte tenu de ce que je viens de vous dire, veuillez indiquer si vous êtes d'accord, plutôt d'accord, plutôt en désaccord, ou en désaccord avec les énoncés suivants.

Question - By creating more red-tape and delaying decisions to reimburse or pay for new medicines governments are making savings to their drug budgets.

Les gouvernements limitent les dépenses prévues pour les médicaments en créant des lourdeurs administratives et en reportant les décisions relatives au remboursement ou au paiement de nouveaux médicaments.

	Total	Agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Unsure	
	Responses	%	%	%	%	%	
Region	Canada 200802	1001	41.2	24.0	10.1	19.3	5.4
	Atlantic	105	46.7	19.9	10.0	10.9	12.5
	Quebec	253	37.6	25.2	14.1	18.7	4.4
	Ontario	302	43.8	21.3	9.5	20.8	4.6
	West	340	39.8	27.0	7.7	20.9	4.7
Gender	Male	493	42.8	21.1	11.1	20.2	4.7
	Female	508	39.5	26.9	9.1	18.4	6.1
Age	18 to 29	197	42.1	23.0	13.5	14.3	7.1
	30 to 39	192	33.8	30.0	14.4	18.1	3.8
	40 to 49	217	42.0	25.7	6.2	21.7	4.4
	50 to 59	171	44.8	21.4	9.3	20.2	4.4
	60 plus	224	43.2	20.3	7.9	21.6	7.1
Home	Own	737	42.9	25.6	9.6	17.6	4.3
	Rent	264	36.3	19.8	11.4	23.9	8.5

Once a medicine has been approved by Health Canada, another body, the Common Drug Review, assesses the medicine and then an individual province can do its own review before it decides if the medicine will be paid for or reimbursed under the provincial drug plan.

Based on what I have just told you, please indicate whether you agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, disagree with the following statements.

Lorsqu'un médicament est approuvé par Santé Canada, il est ensuite évalué par un autre organisme, c'est-à-dire le Programme commun d'évaluation des médicaments. Par la suite, les provinces peuvent choisir de faire leur propre évaluation avant de décider si ce médicament sera couvert par le régime provincial d'assurance-médicaments.

Compte tenu de ce que je viens de vous dire, veuillez indiquer si vous êtes d'accord, plutôt d'accord, plutôt en désaccord, ou en désaccord avec les énoncés suivants.

Question - As taxpayers fund the provincial drug plans they should get access to the medicines that are approved by Health Canada without any further delays.

Puisque ce sont les contribuables qui financent les régimes provinciaux d'assurance-médicaments, ils devraient avoir accès aux nouveaux médicaments dès qu'ils sont approuvés par Santé Canada.

		Total	Agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Unsure
		Responses	%	%	%	%	%
Region	Canada 200802	1001	63.1	21.6	6.9	6.1	2.3
	Atlantic	105	59.6	20.6	3.4	7.6	8.9
	Quebec	253	58.1	26.6	9.2	5.5	.6
	Ontario	302	66.1	19.2	5.5	8.3	.9
	West	340	65.1	20.4	7.7	4.1	2.7
Gender	Male	493	61.1	22.2	7.7	7.0	2.0
	Female	508	64.9	21.1	6.2	5.2	2.5
Age	18 to 29	197	56.3	22.2	7.9	7.9	5.6
	30 to 39	192	60.6	22.5	10.6	5.0	1.3
	40 to 49	217	61.5	27.0	4.9	5.3	1.3
	50 to 59	171	69.0	18.1	5.2	6.5	1.2
	60 plus	224	68.0	17.8	6.2	5.8	2.1
Home	Own	737	63.1	21.8	7.2	5.5	2.5
	Rent	264	63.1	21.2	6.3	7.6	1.8

As you may know, across Canada, most patients can access medicines through their provincial plan or through a private drug plan. Provincial plans are funded through taxpayers' contributions.

Based on this, please indicate whether you agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or disagree with the following statements.

Vous savez possiblement que la majorité des patients à travers le Canada ont accès aux médicaments par l'entremise d'un régime provincial d'assurance-médicaments ou d'un régime privé d'assurance-médicaments. Les régimes provinciaux sont financés par les contribuables.

Compte tenu de ces informations, veuillez indiquer si vous êtes d'accord, plutôt d'accord, plutôt en désaccord, ou en désaccord avec les énoncés suivants.

Question - Patients should get access to the best medicine available in Canada no matter if they have a provincial or private drug plan.

Peu importe qu'un patient compte sur un régime privé ou un régime provincial d'assurance-médicaments, tous les patients devraient avoir accès aux meilleurs médicaments disponibles au Canada.

	Total	Agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Unsure	
	Responses	%	%	%	%	%	
Region	Canada 200802	1001	77.0	14.3	2.7	3.5	2.6
	Atlantic	105	70.3	17.2	5.8	3.7	3.0
	Quebec	253	85.0	11.1	2.4	1.2	.4
	Ontario	302	78.2	12.8	3.2	4.3	1.5
	West	340	72.0	17.2	1.4	4.4	5.0
Gender	Male	493	73.7	15.1	3.5	4.3	3.3
	Female	508	80.1	13.6	1.8	2.7	1.8
Age	18 to 29	197	76.2	13.5	3.2	1.6	5.6
	30 to 39	192	71.3	20.0	3.8	3.1	1.9
	40 to 49	217	80.5	11.5	2.2	4.0	1.8
	50 to 59	171	80.6	11.7	3.2	4.0	.4
	60 plus	224	76.3	14.9	1.2	4.6	2.9
Home	Own	737	75.1	15.9	2.9	4.1	2.0
	Rent	264	82.3	9.8	2.0	1.8	4.1