



The National Lung Health Framework, Message from the Chair

August 2010 – As we move into our second year, I am really pleased to provide a brief update of our activities and achievements. It has been an extremely productive year thanks to our numerous stakeholders and partners who support the Framework's vision of excellent respiratory health for all, and who continue to deliver programs and services in their community. A special thank you is also due to the Federal Government of Canada who responded quickly to the Framework in April 2009, with a 3 year commitment of \$10 million to improve awareness of, prevention, early detection, and management of lung disease.

The focus of the Framework is the building of greater cooperation among the respiratory health community and the coordination of initiatives across the country to achieve our collective vision of excellent respiratory health for all in Canada. The ultimate success of the Framework strategy and partnership will be determined by the improved respiratory health of all Canadians, improved patient access to diagnosis and treatment and the availability of programs that will enhance overall survival.

This past year we introduced an exciting online tool **Respiratory Resources Canada (RRC)**. This free database is updated continually and connects users to lung health work being done across the country. If you have an interest in a particular topic such as COPD patient education for example, **Respiratory Resources Canada** will provide information as well as contacts for related programs across Canada. All members of the respiratory health community are invited to add their initiative to RRC to increase our collective knowledge and our ability to address lung health issues and concerns.

Additional online Framework tools to strengthen collaboration among our stakeholders include our Collaboration Centre and an upcoming Researcher networking tool. The Collaboration Centre offers a secure online environment for stakeholder groups to post and share their data and documentation. The networking tool will allow researchers to connect with each other and share opportunities – something like a Facebook for respiratory researchers. Visit us at www.lunghealthframework.ca for more information about these exciting new initiatives.

Over the past year, we have connected stakeholders with project funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Lung Health Program fund, part of the \$10 million envelope announced by the Minister of Health. As a result, PHAC has funded 13 Phase I initiatives that are currently underway, with a budget of \$1.8 million. These projects have two main priorities, i) baseline needs assessments for public awareness initiatives among high-risk populations, and ii) asthma awareness programs for school-aged children that identify and replicate successful models.

These projects address gaps that were identified by the Framework in the planning phase. All projects will report their findings at the throughout the summer and fall of 2010 and based on interim reports, we anticipate revealing new baseline data that will help us better understand lung health challenges and innovative ways to address them.

Completion of the 13 projects marks the conclusion of Phase I of the PHAC-funded Lung Health Program. The results of these projects will be used to help inform Phase II, though project proposals that do not build on Phase I may also be funded. Phase II projects will run from January 2011 – March 2012 and present opportunities to develop and implement initiatives that transition the



knowledge gained in Phase I, into action. PHAC issued an Invitation to Submit Applications on April 30, 2010. The deadline for proposals is September 15, 2010. More information regarding Phase II of the Lung Health Program can be found at www.lunghealthframework.ca.

These projects, as well as countless others undertaken by stakeholders and profiled in various Framework communications are just some examples of the Framework in action. In the coming weeks, we will be releasing our first Progress Report to share additional information and results of our collective efforts to improve lung health.

In the meantime and until we 'talk' again, please join me in thanking the countless numbers of volunteers, medical and health professionals and stakeholders that together are working on our behalf and on behalf of all of the Canadians at risk of or suffering from lung disease!

We salute you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Borquez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Borquez, Chair