

Speaking Points for Dr. Pierre Charest

- Bonjour, Good morning
- On behalf of Health Canada's Science Policy Directorate and the Colloquium organizing committee, I have the pleasure in welcoming you to this important 2009 Science Colloquium on the Health of Canada's Official Language Minority Communities.
- I'm glad that so many of you have been able to take time out of your busy schedules to join us. In addition to the many organizing agencies that came together to make this event happen, I would like to thank all the officers of these agencies who took the time and made the effort to bring us all together to launch a new momentum in health research in support of the official language minority communities and the promotion of linguistic duality.
- The concept for this Colloquium comes from a Federal Government commitment made at the close of the Symposium on Official Languages Research Issues in January 2008: to continue to engage the official language research community in all areas of official language programming.
- In addition to being a follow-up to the Symposium on Official Languages Research Issues, this Colloquium also follows from the October 2008 Health Canada Science Forum on "Mobilizing Science and Technologies for Stronger Policies and Regulations."
- Two of the themes from that Forum were to address emerging challenges and opportunities for science and policy development, and to present research that enables a stronger science contribution to decision-making.
- As you can see from the program, this is precisely what we are hoping to achieve in this colloquium. Some of you will be making presentations, some are animators while some are panel chairs. You are expected to explain challenges you have encountered in managing your various programs, and to share with us which strategy did or didn't work, as well as any lessons you may have drawn from it.

- While I hope that you will find the sharing of experiences among yourselves useful, listening to your presentations is also a great opportunity for us all to better understand your specific area of research, which in turn will help Health Canada better focus on its policy initiatives on the health of Official Language Minority Communities in the future.
- I understand how important it is for Canadians to have access to health care services in their own language.
- Looking to the next two-days, I hope that the focus of the discussions and outcome of this colloquium will meet the colloquium objectives which includes concrete measures to:
 - First - disseminate and promote the use of knowledge generated by OLMC health research, helping to identify more accurately the current and future needs of those communities; promote the use of that knowledge so as to develop more effective strategies to meet OLMC needs, particularly with respect to long-term policy and program planning;
 - Second - reduce the isolation experienced by researchers, by enabling the scientific community involved in OLMC health issues to discover work already completed or now under way, on relevant subjects;
 - Third - encourage consultation among researchers, leading to the development of research programs; and,
 - Fourth - encourage a new generation of OLMC health research by inviting young researchers to learn about previous work on the subject, motivate them to present their own work on OLMC health in poster form and encourage the development of research collaborations.
- In concluding my remarks, let me once again emphasize that the key objectives of this colloquium are to exchange views on how best to generate new ideas and further initiatives to disseminate and promote the use of knowledge on the health of Canada's official language minority communities.
- I hope that the sessions today and tomorrow will achieve these goals.

- Merci, Thank you