The Private Sector and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Canada’s Experiences

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Canada’s Private Sector: Overview

- Major industries in Canada
- Multinational corporations
- U.S. - Canadian
- Small business
Advancements in Private Sector Planning

- Stockpiles of antivirals
- Human resource issues
- Stand-by policies
- Communications
- Planning assumptions
- All hazard approach and continuity planning
Private Sector Planning Challenges

- Corporate liability
- Fighting pandemic fatigue
- Supply chain
- Small and medium enterprises
- Coordination and interdependencies
- Aboriginal communities
Coordination of Private Sector Efforts

- Private industry
- Association coordination
- International coordination
- U.S. - Canada and private companies
- Collaboration of private sector with federal government
  - Private Sector Working Group (PSWG)
Private Sector Working Group

Background

- Created in 2005 as one of several working groups established under the federal Deputy Ministers’ Committee for Avian and Pandemic Influenza Planning

- PSWG was formed in recognition of the important role played by the private sector in pandemic preparedness
Private Sector Working Group

The mandate of the PSWG is:

- To establish and strengthen partnerships between private sector organizations and associations from the 10 critical infrastructure sectors and with the federal government
- To increase awareness of best practices and model approaches in avian and pandemic influenza planning
- To promote a shared approach to pandemic influenza planning and preparedness
Private Sector Working Group

**Structure**

- It is co-chaired by:
  - Public Safety Canada (PS)
  - Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
  - Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors (CCGD)

- It comprises **10 critical infrastructure** sectors:
  - Government
  - Manufacturing
  - Information & Communication Technology
  - Finance
  - Transportation
  - Safety
  - Health Care
  - Food
  - Energy
  - Water
Private Sector Working Group

Recent Activities

- Critical Infrastructure Pandemic Workshop
- Sharing of information and tools:
  - Risk Communications
  - Business Continuity Planning
  - Income Support
  - Economic Impacts