



**Partnership For Tomorrow's Health**  
For the benefit of future generations

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## **Atlantic Canada Has Key Role in National Cancer Prevention Study**

Halifax, June 11 – Today's official launch of the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project represents a major step in the development of a comprehensive national cancer control strategy, says Dr. Louise Parker who heads the project in the Atlantic region.

“This project provides a solid foundation for controlling and ultimately preventing cancer,” says Dr. Parker. “The information we obtain through the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project will be a significant resource for epidemiological, clinical and basic scientific research into the causes of cancer in Atlantic Canada and the rest of the country.”

A research project involving 300,000 Canadians between the ages of 35 and 69 that will explore how genetics, environment and lifestyle contribute to the development of cancer, the pan-Canadian study is funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, an independent organization established by the federal government to accelerate action on cancer control.

The Atlantic component of the national project, the Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (PATH), will start recruiting 30,000 participants from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador early next year. Study participants will provide lifestyle and health information by completing questionnaires, allowing physical measurements to be taken and providing blood and other biological samples.

PATH participants will be followed for a number of years, periodically being requested to completed additional questionnaires and provide additional measurements and biological samples. Health outcomes will also be tracked through provincial cancer registries, hospitalization records and other federal and provincial health-related databases.

“The Atlantic provinces have the highest rates of cancer in Canada,” says Dr. Parker, “and the PATH project will help us to understand why the rates are so high in the region and, more importantly, to develop strategies dealing with those underlying causes and significantly reducing those rates.”

The major benefits of the Atlantic PATH and national partnership projects are:

- A better understanding of environmental, genetic and lifestyle factors likely to lead to cancer and other life-threatening diseases.
- An opportunity to test new hypotheses as we learn more about cancer and its causes, since we will be tracking participants over many years.
- Creation of a national bank of population health information with tremendous potential for answering health questions that will benefits Canadians for years to come.

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