

APPENDIX J: LETTER OF INVITATION



August 22, 2006

Mr/Ms ...
Address

Dear Mr./Ms/Dr. ...

Re: Patients for Patient Safety in Canada Workshop: Partnering to Advance Healthcare System Safety, October 17 – 19, 2006, Vancouver, BC

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute is pleased to be supporting a new patient-centered initiative in Canada. *Patients for Patient Safety (PFPS)*, one of six action areas of the World Health Organization (WHO) *World Alliance for Patient Safety*, aims to develop a national and global network of patients and family members who have experienced an adverse event, and are ready to collaborate with health organizations to improve patient safety. The Canadian workshop will build on the successes of an international global workshop in London, U.K. in November 2005, and a regional workshop for the Americas in San Francisco in May, 2006. CPSI and its partners are working with Ryan Sidorchuk of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Canadian lead for PFPS, to plan the workshop, that will be held on October 17 – 19, 2006, in Vancouver, BC.

Unlike other stakeholders, who can expense their participation in patient safety meetings and events to their employer, healthcare consumers often must cover the costs of airfare, meals and conference registration fees themselves, in addition to using vacation time to be away from work. These expenses have become obstacles to greater consumer participation in the patient safety movement. I am writing to invite you to join us in supporting this initiative through two forms of sponsorship:

1. **Nominate and provide financial support for one individual from your region to attend and become part of this national network.** The attached Call for Nominations/Applications can be used to nominate a patient and/or family member from your region as a participant. Every \$3000 commitment will support the participation of one individual, including travel, accommodation, as well as workshop costs;
2. **Provide general funding to support workshop planning and delivery.** The success of this workshop depends on effective planning, infrastructure and facilitation, and the participation of patients and/or family members. Your contribution will provide support for facilities, equipment and other workshop details, and support the participation of

consumers who may not yet have established a relationship with a healthcare organization.

Your organization's support will be recognized with appropriate logo placement in workshop materials and promotions. Details about the nomination and sponsorship process are included in the attached Call for Nominations/Applications.

The purpose of the **Patients for Patient Safety in Canada Workshop** is to:

1. Create a national network of patient safety champions who are equipped to partner with Canadian healthcare organizations, and share with and learn from other champions globally through the existing WHO *Patients for Patient Safety* communications infrastructure;
2. Engage participants in developing communication and advocacy tools required for effecting change / improving the role of patients and family members as partners in healthcare safety, and instruct participants in the effective and appropriate use of these tools; and
3. Engage participants in developing a statement of expectations for the disclosure process that is implemented when a patient has suffered harm or experienced a close call.

Nominations must be submitted by **September 13, 2006**. If you have any questions related to sponsorship or nomination, please contact Sean Jones, Workshop Secretariat, at (780) 436-0983 Ext. 229 or by email at sean@buksa.com. To download the nomination / application form or for more information about the Patients for Patient Safety in Canada Workshop, visit <http://ww.buksa.com/WHO> . For more information on the World Alliance for Patient Safety, visit <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/en>.

Sincerely,



Philip Hassen
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Attachment

- cc. (Organizational patient safety or quality rep)
Sean Jones, BUKSA Conference Management and Program Development