

10 health stories that mattered this week: April 7–11

- Health Canada publicly released its first drug safety summary review, a short synopsis of the safety review for the acne drug Diane-35. Full reviews, subject to redactions of personal and confidential information, are available upon request.
- Quebec's incoming premier, Dr. Philippe Couillard, is a former neurosurgeon. Before entering politics in 2003, he served as chief surgeon at two hospitals in Montréal, sat on the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Board and Committee of Public Affairs and Policy Research, was a medical professor and cofounded the Dhahran Department of Neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia.
- The Canadian Diabetes Association released the Diabetes Charter for Canada. The charter's principles include ensuring people with diabetes are treated with dignity and respect, advocating for equitable access to care and enhancing the health and quality of life for people with diabetes and their caregivers.
- A pertussis outbreak has been declared in southern Alberta. There have been 34 confirmed cases, and health officials are urging residents in the area to ensure they have been immunized.
- Ontario plans to increase funding for fertility treatments starting in 2015, allowing access for an estimated 4000 more people. The province is proposing to contribute to the costs of one cycle of in vitro fertilization per patient for any form of infertility.
- The Postpartum Depression Association of Manitoba launched its website to guide new mothers in the province to relevant information and resources. Postpartum depression affects about 15% of families, states the association, and can surface any time within the first year after birth.
- Canada Research Chair in Resistance and Susceptibility Dr. Frank Plummer is one of five winners of the \$100 000 Killam Prize, awarded by the Canada Council for the Arts for outstanding scholarly achievement. Plummer, who is also the chief science officer of the Public Health Agency of Canada, was recognized for delivering "countless research breakthroughs that have begun to unravel the mysteries of HIV/AIDs."
- Tweed Marijuana Inc. became the first publicly traded producer of medical marijuana in Canada. Shares for the company, which has a market value of \$89 million, were the third-most traded in Canada on its first day.
- Baycrest, an academic health sciences centre in Toronto, Ontario, has launched a website dedicated to late-life depression. The website provides resources to help seniors recognize the signs of late-life depression and aims to dispel myths and stigma surrounding the condition so more of those affected will seek care.
- ParticipACTION ran a week-long "Sneak It In" campaign to encourage sedentary Canadians to sneak in 10-minute bursts of physical activity during their workdays. Canadians adults are sedentary for about 9.5 hours a day, states ParticipACTION, and 85% do not meet the weekly recommended 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity. — Roger Collier, *CMAJ*

CMAJ 2014. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.109-4784