

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MERCK FROSST'S GARDASIL™ NOW AVAILABLE IN CANADA**

***Daughters of cervical cancer survivor first to receive vaccine***

**MONTREAL, Canada – August 21, 2006** – Starting today, Merck Frosst is making GARDASIL™ [quadrivalent human papillomavirus (types 6, 11, 16, 18) recombinant vaccine] available to physicians and pharmacists across Canada. The HPV vaccine was approved last month by Health Canada for the prevention of cervical cancer, vulvar cancer, vaginal cancer, precancerous lesions and genital warts caused by the vaccine HPV types. The first doses of the vaccine were administered to two young Canadian women today.

“When I was told the vaccine would be available in August, I promised myself that my daughters would be first in line. Today I kept that promise,” said cervical cancer survivor Brigitte Leclerc. “I’m so grateful there’s now a way to protect Cindy and Nadia from a disease that has caused our family so much stress.”

In the spring of this year, Brigitte Leclerc’s life was turned upside down. A successful, 40-year-old, financial analyst with a husband and two daughters, Cindy aged 16 and Nadia aged 22, Brigitte was diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer. After radical surgery, she became dedicated to creating awareness about cervical cancer and its cause: HPV.

“People just don’t talk about this disease and don’t seem to know how serious it is. I’m doing my best to change that,” said Brigitte.

HPV causes cervical cancer and is linked to vaginal and vulvar cancers. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in Canadian women aged 20-44 after breast cancer. HPV also causes genital warts. The lifetime risk of developing genital warts is approximately one in 10.

GARDASIL™ is indicated for young Canadian girls and women between nine and 26 years of age as three intramuscular injections given over a period of six months. GARDASIL™ has a list price of \$134.95 per 0.5 mL dose.

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**About Merck Frosst**

At Merck Frosst, patients come first. Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. is a research-driven pharmaceutical company. Merck Frosst discovers, develops and markets a broad range of innovative medicines to improve human health. Merck Frosst is one of the top 20 R&D investors in Canada, with an investment of \$117 million in 2005. The Company is committed to fostering partnerships to deliver the most valuable health outcomes for Canadian patients. More information about Merck Frosst is available at <http://www.merckfrosst.com>.

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**VACCINNEES AND THEIR MOTHER AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.**

**B-ROLL:**

A b-roll will be distributed today via satellite from 13:00 to 14:00 EDT.  
Coordinates: Anik F2 C, Transponder 3B, D/L Frequency 3820 vertical, Audio 6.2/6.8

**NOTE TO PHOTO EDITORS:**

At 10:00 am, a photo accompanying this release will be available on the CNW Photo Network and archived at <http://photos.newswire.ca>. Additional archived images will also be available on this site. Images are free to accredited members of the media.

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