



CANADA

Debates of the Senate

2nd SESSION

• 40th PARLIAMENT

• VOLUME 146

• NUMBER 66

HEALTH

H1N1 Flu Vaccine

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

THE SENATE

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H1N1 FLU VACCINE

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, in my province of Alberta, residents arrived at clinics in the early hours of the morning on the weekend to receive their vaccine, only to be confronted with signs indicating that the clinics had been closed until further notice. Albertans have no flu vaccine “until further notice.”

What notice does this government need to rectify the situation in Alberta?

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Minister of State (Seniors)): Honourable senators, I saw some of the news reports out of Alberta. I repeat that 6 million doses of vaccine were sent out. When the vaccine was given approval, the

provinces and territories and the federal government agreed that the most vulnerable would be vaccinated first.

Unfortunately, there have been some incidents of people jumping the queue or misunderstandings of who should be in the line-up. There have been some glitches in Alberta and Ontario, but the public health authorities, the ministers of health and the municipal health officials, are working very hard together.

As I mentioned, the vaccine is being delivered as it is produced. Everyone should work together to support our public health workers and to ensure that Canadians realize that all levels of government are seized with this problem and that, unlike most people in the world, every Canadian who wants to be vaccinated will be vaccinated.
