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## Feds put cash behind healthcare problems in developing country

By **KEVIN CONNOR**, TORONTO SUN

Last Updated: May 3, 2010 3:14pm

A new \$225-million organization has been set up to deal the lack of health resources in the developing world where 9 million kids die every year before reaching their fifth birthday.

Ottawa has created Grand Challenges Canada to bring together Canadian scientists, developing scientific researchers and the private sector to tackle the health problems facing poor countries.

"Innovation saves lives, said Dr. Peter Singer, CEO of Grand Challenges Canada and director of the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health at the University Health Network. "Diagnosis is the prelude to effective treatment. Bringing diagnostic tools to the patient's bedside is better, faster and cheaper than sending a sample to a lab 100 kilometres away."

Singer says diagnostic improvements will save more than 100,000 lives a year from malaria related deaths alone.

That could reduce more than 300 million unnecessary treatments that may lead to wasted resources and drug resistance.

"Once these innovated solutions are created, it is up to the collaboration of business, academia, government and philanthropy to invest in and develop these advances and make them available and affordable to all who need them," said Joseph Rotman, a business leader and chairman of Grand Challenges Canada. "It is gratifying to see the Canadian government has the far-sighted vision to support this extraordinary venture which will make such a difference in the world and to Canada's role in international development."

The not-for-profit organization will lead the way in making a healthier world, said federal finance minister Jim Flarety.

"It is an ambitious new Canadian organization aimed at supporting global partnerships to solve the developing worlds most difficult and pressing health problems," Flarety said.

The organization has already partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.

"The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is supportive of the mission of Grand Challenges Canada and is pleased to work together," said Dr. Carol Dahl, director of the Global Health Program at the Gates foundation.