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Saving Brains

I am pleased to be the honorary chairperson of Grand Challenges Canada's Saving Brains initiative.

The world has made some great strides in the advancement of maternal and child health. I am proud of Canada's contributions and leadership in this regard through the Muskoka Initiative. Tragically, there are still hundreds of millions of children in developing countries who are not reaching their full development potential. The healthy development of the brain can be influenced by malnutrition, infection, birth complications, or a lack of nurturing and stimulation at an early age.

The Saving Brains initiative targets the first 1000 days of a child's life. This is a unique window of opportunity to set individuals on a trajectory to a healthy and productive life. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that all children have the tools they need to survive and thrive, as they begin their journey to becoming healthy and productive adults.

I have great faith in the wonderful team that Grand Challenges Canada has assembled, which is led by Board Chairman, Mr. Joseph L. Rotman. I am supporting this initiative because of the potential to bring transformative change to the lives and future of the developing world's children.

Sincerely,

Lauren Harper