Eastern Health Co-Hosts Israeli Companies to Enhance Cybersecurity in Health Care

October 23, 2019 - St. John's, NL: Eastern Health, the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF) and HealthCare*CAN* have joined together today to host a one-day discussion on cybersecurity in health care. The purpose of the meetings is to bring together Israeli companies who have expertise in cybersecurity with Canadian health organizations, governments and entrepreneurs to identify opportunities to enhance the protection of health-care technology and information systems from cyber threats.

Seven leading cybersecurity experts from Israel are participating in the one-day event along with all the regional health authorities in the province, the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and academic and industry partners from across Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada. In addition, David Levy, the Consul General of Israel for Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, will provide greetings and support via video on behalf of the Government of Israel. Of note is the participation of the Israel National Cyber Authority and the Israel Innovation Authority in this landmark event.

"Cybersecurity in health care is increasingly becoming an area of priority for health-care organizations across Canada. At Eastern Health, it is more important than ever that we educate ourselves and develop partnerships which will protect patient information and health-care information systems from cyber threats," said David Diamond, President and CEO of Eastern Health. "Israeli cybersecurity providers are world leaders in this field and Eastern Health is pleased to co-host this event which will encourage partnerships and collaborations with industry providers."

CIIRDF brings together Canadian and Israeli companies seeking research and development partners and helps broker new technology collaborations. Dr. Henri Rothschild, President of CIIRDF, said today's meetings are the start of productive discussions among prospective collaborators in both Canada and Israel to identify priorities, evaluate specific opportunities, and consider application of innovative Israeli technology solutions to address the needs of Canadian health-care organizations and companies.

"The Israeli participation in this important exchange of information with Eastern Health and its partners is of great importance," said Dr. Rothschild. "This is because healthcare is going digital in order to improve the quality of care, decrease its cost and provide better access in an increasingly distributed environment. All of these features are essential to the future of healthcare and yet, they result in making it more vulnerable to cyber attacks. This meeting with Israeli leaders is an important step in addressing the risks so that digital health can proceed in a secure way."

Discussions to explore accessing expertise from Israeli companies was first raised during HealthCare*CAN* meetings in 2018. HealthCare*CAN* is the national voice of health-care organizations and hospitals across Canada and has been committed to identifying ways to develop more secure and resilient health-care infrastructure across the country.

"We expect that discussions held at this important gathering will seed the soil for productive conversations of the same kind across Canada and germinate new projects in education, software development, and digital infrastructure

to support cybersafe healthcare across the country," said Paul-Émile Cloutier, HealthCareCAN President and CEO. "No organization or sector can go it alone in the face of growing cyber threats. We must all work together to defend our common digital ground and we hope that this will be a priority for the federal government."

The Provincial Government provided support for the cybersecurity in health-care event. The Honourable Bernard Davis, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, said the province is committed to making investments in innovation and technology which help strengthen the province's economy.

"Our strategic partnership with Israel to develop and improve our cybersecurity in the health care sector will result in our province experiencing significant benefits to its health innovation ecosystem," said Minister Davis. "The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to creating and maintaining a climate where innovation can thrive and this agreement will offer a unique opportunity for our province's health-care and technology leaders to collaborate with world leaders in cybersecurity. International collaboration between Newfoundland and Labrador and Israel on health-care cybersecurity will expand local skillsets and provide solutions for our province and the world."

The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) is responsible for providing quality health information to health professionals and others and is committed to be a provincial and national leader in the delivery of eHealth and digital health solutions. Stephen Clark, CEO of NLCHI, said Newfoundland and Labrador is well-positioned to be a leader in cybersecurity in health care at a national level.

"As the lead organization for eHealth service delivery for the provincial health-care system, cybersecurity is at the forefront of our daily operational services and strategic planning, as we manage the core IT infrastructure and health information assets for hospitals and health-care providers," said Stephen Clark, CEO of NLCHI. "This event is a great opportunity to connect with international and national industry leaders, exchange ideas and help advance our collective base of knowledge as we all work together to address new and evolving cybersecurity pressures."

In addition to learning about Israeli perspectives on cybersecurity in health care, presentations will also highlight the evolution of risks, case studies, lessons learned and best practices with the aim of connecting Canadian companies with Israeli companies to jointly provide cyber protection solutions and services.

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Note to Media: Members of the Israeli delegation, Eastern Health and other participants of today's meeting on cybersecurity in health care will be available to media at 11:45 a.m. today. Please RSVP to the Eastern Health media contact below.

About Eastern Health
Eastern Health is the largest, integrated health authority in Newfoundland and Labrador employing approximately 13,000 dedicated employees, over 600 medical staff, and is supported by approximately 2,000 volunteers, including members of numerous auxiliaries and fundraising foundations. With an annual budget of approximately $1.5 billion, the authority offers the full continuum of health and community services including public health, long-term care, community services, hospital care and unique provincial programs and services. Serving a population of over 300,000, Eastern Health's geographic boundaries extend from St. John's west to Port Blandford including all communities on the Avalon, Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas.