



*Dr. Michael Stevenson, President and Vice-Chancellor,
Simon Fraser University, invites you to*

THE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

*with The Right Honourable Pakalitha Mosisili,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho*

Stepping up the Response to the AIDS Pandemic in Lesotho

6:30–8:30 pm
Tuesday,
September 29, 2009

Morris J Wosk Centre for
Dialogue, 580 West Hastings
Street, Vancouver

This event is free but seating
is limited and reservations
are required. Please RSVP
by September 21, 2009 at

<http://tinyurl.com/pmlesotho>

**Three distinguished
respondents** will contribute
brief responses to Prime
Minister Mosisili's remarks
and President Stevenson will
moderate the dialogue among
attendees.

- **Sherri A. Brown, PhD**
Candidate; Trudeau
Scholar; SSHRC CGS
Scholar investigating HIV/
AIDS treatment access,
Department of Political
Science, SFU
- **Dr. Robert Hogg**, Professor,
Faculty of Health Sciences,
SFU; Director, HIV/AIDS
Drug Treatment Program, BC
Centre for Excellence in HIV/
AIDS
- **Dr. Martin Laba**, Director,
School of Communication,
SFU; Academic Project
Director, Reducing HIV
Stigma through Education—
Ghana

Convened by Dialogue Programs,
Simon Fraser University

Prime Minister Mosisili is deeply worried about the diminished world-wide awareness of the issue of HIV/AIDS in Africa in the face of growing concerns about climate change and the global recession. According to data from The National AIDS Commission of Lesotho, the HIV infection rate is estimated at 23.2 per cent, or 417,600 people out of Lesotho's population of 1.8 million. The rate of infection is estimated at 30 per cent in adults aged 15 to 49 years.

While many Canadians and non-governmental organisations, notably among them Stephen Lewis and Guelph physician Dr. Anne-Marie Zajdlik, have long been champions of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention at the grassroots level, Prime Minister Mosisili wants to remind Canadians about the challenges countries like Lesotho face in dealing with the pandemic and its consequences, made worse by the global recession.

Lesotho provides anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy to victims of AIDS, and testing is widespread—but what does a country do after that? The effectiveness of ARV therapy is reduced if support services, clinical access and good nutrition are not readily available. The Prime Minister wants to move beyond mere aid to focus on sustainable development and building human capacity by directing aid into research, education, exchange programs, and public awareness.

Pandemic experts say the future of the tiny, mountainous country of Lesotho, which is landlocked by South Africa, is in jeopardy because of the staggering prevalence of the virus.

***This forum will explore what more can and must
be done and Canada's part in this response.***

Biography

The Right Honourable Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili studied at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts and a Certificate in Education in 1970. He completed his MA at the University of Wisconsin in 1976, and an MEd at Simon Fraser University in 1982. Prime Minister Mosisili was sworn into office as Prime Minister on May 29, 1998.

Accompanying the Prime Minister is Lesotho's Minister of Health, **The Honourable Dr. Mphu Keneiloe Ramatlaping**, who obtained her medical degree from the Kharkov Medical Institute, Ukraine in 1971 and a master's in Public Health in 1984 from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene & Public Health.

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Event made possible by the Office of the President, Simon Fraser University.

For more information, call 778-782-7925 or email dialogue-info@sfu.ca