



## LAST MINUTE NEWS!

### **Charles River Labs: A research lab expands its operations in Sherbrooke, Quebec (Thanks to the Quebec government)**

Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. announced that it intends to build a new facility in Sherbrooke, Quebec, to support the company's expanding preclinical services business. Located in the newly constructed Sherbrooke Biomedical Park, Charles River's newest facility will provide animal testing services to the international pharmaceutical industry. Was the public consulted regarding this project?

### **Selling lab animals for profit: An ugly business**

The world's largest supplier of animals for laboratory experimentation also supplies a range of biomedical products and research and development outsourcing services for use in the pharmaceutical industry. Charles River specializes in creating research animal models using mice, rats, and rabbits for researchers throughout the world. Over half of this business comes from small laboratory animal production and sales.

### **A greedy multinational with no compassion for animals**

In the USA, two chimpanzees, Ashley and Rex, died unnecessarily, and a third, Topsy, suffered while in the care of Alamodorgo Primate Facility, operated by Charles River Labs. In the UK, Charles River has been the target of animal rights activists. Its Shamrock Farm in West Sussex closed in 2000 following a 15-month campaign by animal rights proponents. Animal research is mostly driven by profits, as corporations make billions of dollars selling often useless, unsafe products. At universities, the career advancement of scientists and the convenient and unrestricted use of lab animals are the main drivers of continuing animal research.

### **Good news: Business is not so great anymore!**

With 8,000 workers worldwide, Charles River Laboratories reported a 2006 net loss of \$55.8 million on revenue of \$1.1 billion. Its employees must realize that in addition to the shame of working for a multinational firm selling lab animals to the vivisection industry, their company has much to lose in an era where animal experimentation and testing are viewed very poorly on both scientific and social grounds. Developing alternatives to lab animals could be a profitable business for Charles River, but selling lab animals is so much easier, and Charles River Labs have been in that ugly business over half a century.

### **Quebec: A hellhole for animals?**

Good people don't want companies profiting from the misery of animals to grow and thrive in Quebec. Quebec already welcomes puppy mills, seal hunting, and large pig farms, as well as the highest concentration of research labs in Canada. What next? When is it enough? Understandably, the City of Sherbrooke is eager for new sales and tax revenues and the new jobs Charles River will bring. Does the City realize the kind of companies it is attracting to Quebec? Is this the kind of business Quebecers want as a model of socially responsible economic development? Do we want an animal abuse-based economy in Quebec? Animal research and testing—one of the worst forms of animal exploitation—must go.

### **What you can do**

Let your local representative, major, deputy, and the media know you don't want companies like Charles River Labs in your province. Help the *Canadians for the Advancement of Health Research* to shut them down.

**We need your support.** Visit our website at: <http://www.cah-research.com>.