CLAIMS

1. A protective polypeptide antigen, consisting of or comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with an amino acid sequence consisting of residues 1400-1800 of a *C. difficile* Toxin A sequence or a *C. difficile* Toxin B sequence;

with the proviso that the polypeptide does not include one or more of the Repeat Units (RU) located between amino acid residues 1851-2710 of *C. difficile* Toxin A and/ or residues 1853-2366 of a *C. difficile* Toxin B.

2. The protective polypeptide antigen according to Claim 1, wherein said polypeptide does not include the amino acid sequence provided by amino acid residues 1851-2710 of *C. difficile* Toxin A and/ or amino acid residues 1853-2366 of a *C. difficile* Toxin B.

3. The protective polypeptide antigen according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the polypeptide consists of or comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with an amino acid sequence consisting of residues 1330-1850 or 770-1850 or 542-1850 of a *C. difficile* Toxin A sequence.

4. The protective polypeptide antigen according to ~~any preceding claim~~Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the polypeptide consists of or comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with an amino acid sequence consisting of residues 1145-1852 or 767-1852 or 543-1852 of a *C. difficile* Toxin B sequence.

5. The protective polypeptide antigen according to any preceding claim, wherein said polypeptide further comprises a second amino sequence selected from one or more of a bacterial surface layer protein, NusA, thioredoxin, maltose-binding protein, a ubiquitin-like peptide, and a fragment of any of said second amino acid sequences.

6. The protective polypeptide antigen according to Claim 5, wherein the second amino acid sequence comprises a *C. difficile* surface layer protein.

7. The protective polypeptide antigen according to Claim 6, wherein the *C. difficile* surface layer protein consists of or comprises a CD 2767 peptide, for