



Canadian Health Coalition
Coalition canadienne de la santé

2841 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K1V 8X7 TEL. (613) 521-3400 FAX (613) 521-9638

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Health
Brooks Claxton Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, On
K1A 0K9

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Re: Request for a meeting

Dear Minister Aglukkaq,

On behalf of the Canadian Health Coalition I want to congratulate you on your re-appointment as Minister of Health.

The Canadian Health Coalition is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting and expanding Canada's public health system for the benefit of all Canadians. Our membership includes organizations representing seniors, women, churches, nurses, health care workers and anti-poverty activists from across Canada.

We are pleased that health care – the number one concern of Canadians – received significant attention in the recent federal election and that your government is committed to securing adequate and predictable federal health care transfer payments. We must now move forward with leadership and vision to improve universal public health care to ensure the future needs of Canadians, wherever they live, are adequately addressed.

We are requesting a meeting with you at your earliest convenience as there are a number of key issues we wish to discuss with you related to the renewal of the 2004 Health Accord. Of primary concern is National Pharmaceutical Strategy and the role of the federal government in pharmaceutical policy, including: federal policies that can seriously impede access to affordable medicines; federal regulatory policy that exposes Canadians to dangerous new prescription drugs that are not cost effective; and proposed changes to federal drug safety legislation.

Other key issues of concern include: access to continuing care, including home care, long-term care and palliative care and the need for national standards; and the duty of the Minister of Health to enforce the *Canada Health Act* and thereby protect Canadians from illegal user fees, extra-billing and queue-jumping.

We look forward to meeting you at your earliest convenience to open a dialogue on issues of concern to millions of Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McBane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael McBane
National Coordinator
Canadian Health Coalition

Tel. (613) 277-6295

www.healthcoalition.ca