



HEART &
STROKE
FOUNDATION

September 26, 2016

The Hon. Jane Philpott
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

On behalf of a number of national health organizations, I am writing today to express our appreciation and support for a review and strengthening of measures to protect public health from tobacco industry interference.

We were delighted to note that Canada's 2016 report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control included an announcement that such a review has been initiated. This marks a significant development in tobacco control policy.

We believe that this review is long overdue. We trust that it will result in a much-needed strengthening of the monitoring and oversight of tobacco industry activities and improved transparency of the industry's attempt to influence health policy. This will lead to better protection against their influence on health issues at all levels of government.

In addition to expressing our appreciation for this progress, we would also like to offer our active assistance. As an initial contribution, we attach our most recent "shadow report" on Canada's implementation of the FCTC, which focuses on implementation of the treaty's provisions to protect against industry interference (Article 5.3).

This report has been collaboratively developed and is endorsed by the following organizations: the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control, HealthBridge, Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, Action on Smoking and Health, the Coalition Québécoise pour le contrôle du tabac and the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco.

Protecting against tobacco industry interference is a challenge which will require a whole-of-government approach as well as the active support of Ministers at the Cabinet table. We thank you in advance for generating this support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley James".

Lesley James
Senior Health Policy Analyst, Heart and Stroke Foundation
Chair, Canadian Coalition for Action on Tobacco

cc. Suzy McDonald, Director General, Tobacco Control Directorate
Robert Tripp, Policy Analyst, Health Canada