<Date>

<Member of Parliament’s Name>

<Address>

<Address>

<Title> <Name>,

As a constituent interested in equitable health care, I am writing to ask for your help in bringing an urgent matter to the attention of our Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Philpott.

Hepatitis C is one of the top public health concerns in Canada, and one of the most burdensome infectious diseases in Canada, with over 250,000 affected. However it is preventable and thanks to new treatments, it is now curable. These new treatments along with our knowledge about successful prevention practices make it possible to envision eliminating this life-threatening virus in Canada.

Many countries around the world have responded to the discovery of a cure for HCV by putting plans in place to prevent, diagnose and treat people living with the virus. So far, Canada’s efforts have been minimal. The prevalence of advanced liver disease as a result of HCV continues to rise in Canada as does the prevalence of new cases of HCV.

On May 28, 2016, at the World Health Assembly, Canada and the other 193 member states unanimously adopted the first Global Viral hepatitis Strategy toward the elimination of viral hepatitis. This means that the Government of Canada has now made international commitments to work towards the elimination of hepatitis C, but without a strategy in place, we have concerns that our targets will not be met.

The federal government is an essential partner in improving outcomes and quality of care for Canadians. With strong federal leadership and collaboration with the provinces, through our excellent health infrastructure, Canada can emerge as a world leader in eliminating this life-threatening disease.

Please write to Minister Philpott and let her know that you support the creation of a National Strategy for the Elimination of Hepatitis C. If you would like more information, it would be our pleasure to discuss HCV, treatment and the barriers preventing the elimination of this disease in Canada with you.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

<Title>, <Organization>