

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

MAR 22 2016

Ms. Patricia Bacon  
Chair  
Action Hepatitis Canada  
1-36 Toronto Street  
Barrie, Ontario L4N 1T9

Dear Ms. Bacon:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 14, 2016, requesting my support for the draft global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis, and the targets outlined within.

As you mentioned, viral hepatitis is the seventh leading cause of death globally. When so many people are losing their lives to these infections, the urgency to treat, prevent, and raise awareness of hepatitis B and C—in Canada and around the world—is vital.

I agree that viral hepatitis is an important public health concern, and I am pleased that the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed the first global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis to guide global- and country-level action toward ending hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

In Canada, current programming is well aligned with the strategic directions proposed in the WHO draft global health sector strategy. Through targeted funding from the *Hepatitis C Prevention, Support and Research Program*, the Public Health Agency of Canada supports national, regional and local community projects that address prevention and access to care, treatment, and support to those living with HCV. As well, the Agency works in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support innovative and interdisciplinary research and the use of research evidence to enhance patient care to improve prevention strategies, enhance access and adherence to treatment, and better understand the health challenges of Canadians living with hepatitis C.

.../2

Canada

Government of Canada officials discussed the draft strategy with other member states at the Executive Board meeting, and I understand that the issues you raised served as the basis of many exchanges during the week-long meeting.

Thank you again for writing. The efforts that Action Hepatitis Canada takes to raise critical awareness of viral hepatitis are much appreciated and considered fundamental in saving lives.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Philpott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.