

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

NOV 15 2016

Ms. Lesley James  
Senior Health Policy Analyst, Heart and Stroke Foundation  
Chair, Canadian Coalition for Action on Tobacco  
Lesley.James@hsf.ca

Dear Ms. James:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 26, 2016, in which you share the recommendations of health organizations regarding the implementation of Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in Canada.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and your colleagues for your dedication to tobacco control. I truly appreciate the work and support provided by your organizations, and I welcome your views on tobacco control and other areas of shared interest.

I also appreciate the recommendations put forward in your report on possible ways to strengthen Canada's implementation of Article 5.3. Health Canada considers the protection of public health policies from tobacco industry interference to be a crucial component of domestic and global tobacco control efforts. As we prepare for Canada's participation at the upcoming Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organization FCTC, the wealth of information provided in your report will help in informing discussions with other Parties on Article 5.3.

We recognize that the implementation of Article 5.3 requires a whole-of-government approach. Accordingly, my officials are currently conducting a review of policies and procedures with the view of developing domestic policy guidelines on Article 5.3 in collaboration with federal, provincial/territorial and civil society tobacco control partners.

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I look forward to continuing to work with our domestic stakeholders as we advance our work on Article 5.3 and other important tobacco control initiatives.

I am certain that my staff and departmental officials in the Tobacco Control Directorate will give your views and report consideration. I encourage you to be in touch with them to discuss your ideas further.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Philpott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

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