

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

The Honourable/L'honorable Ujjal Dosanjh

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

NOV 28 2005

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Mr. Régis Vaillancourt
President
Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
3-30 Concourse Gate
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7V7

Dear Mr. Vaillancourt:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 6, 2005, concerning Health Canada's proposal to expand the authority to prescribe controlled substances. I regret the delay in responding.

Health Canada would be pleased to have the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists participate on the Advisory Committee on Expanding Authority to Prescribe Controlled Substances and regrets that an invitation was not previously extended.

As you are aware, the purpose of the project is to enable members of regulated health professions other than practitioners of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine to prescribe controlled substances under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and its Regulations as appropriate. The groups of health professionals presently being considered are podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and midwives.

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee took place in January 2005. The objective of the meeting was to engage in a dialogue that will contribute to policy development and decisions to expand the authority to prescribe controlled substances under the Act. In particular, the meeting was an opportunity to discuss and confirm fundamental principles on which the policy will be developed and to address concerns that have been raised to date. Please find attached a copy of the January 2005 meeting report for your information.

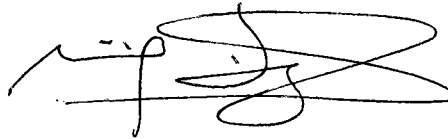
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The Office of Controlled Substances will be in contact with you once the next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Carole Bouchard, Director, Office of Controlled Substances directly at (613) 952-2177.

Again, thank you for writing and for your interest in this important issue. Health Canada looks forward to your participation in future consultations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ujjal Dosanjh', written over a horizontal line.

Ujjal Dosanjh

Enclosure