Dear Minister Dosanjh:

Please find attached a letter sent previously to Suzanne Gay, Office of Controlled Substances, in which the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) commented on the Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Programme proposal to expand the authority to prescribe controlled substances. We have reviewed our comments presented in this letter and find they still reflect CSHP’s position on expansion of the authority to prescribe as it relates to patient safety and the role of pharmacists.

Hospital pharmacists have a long-standing reputation for innovative leadership in advancing pharmacy practice, and CSHP members would welcome an opportunity to contribute to the development of new policies. We have heard that Health Canada does not plan to include pharmacists in the updated regulations on prescribing privileges for benzodiazepines and narcotics, and we would like to receive confirmation of that information.

As mentioned in our earlier letter and noted by Suzanne Gay in her response, CSHP would like to be involved in consultations on this initiative and to participate in the work of the advisory group. To date, we have not received an invitation.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Régis Vaillancourt,
President

Enclosures (2)
cc: Steven Fletcher, Official Opposition Health Critic, M.P. Charleswood–St. James–Assiniboia
    Jeff Poston, Executive Director, Canadian Pharmacists Association
    Myrella Roy, Executive Director, CSHP
    CSHP Executive