

November 13, 2009

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Health Canada
70 Colombine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister:

In October, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concluded its 80th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Victoria. A major highlight of our AGM is the Policy Session. It is during the Policy Session that resolutions submitted by local chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across Canada are debated and voted on by accredited delegates. Once approved, these resolutions become policy of the Canadian Chamber for the following three years. In 2009, our delegates issued a clear and decisive national policy mandate that we intend to pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months.

The following resolution, which pertains to your portfolio, was adopted by our delegates.

Reforming the Canadian Healthcare System

To improve patient care and outcomes, the Canadian Chamber recommends that the federal government work with the provinces and territories to ensure that any reform of the Canadian healthcare system involves the private sector more fully in the delivery, and insurance, of diagnostic and surgical services; change the current system of determining hospital funding to provide incentives for increasing the volume of patients treated; develop a uniform and integrated healthcare information management system; and address productivity and labour shortage issues in the healthcare system by revising rigid scope-of-practice rules and other measures.

Should you wish to discuss these issues further, I would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment

c.c. Morris Rosenberg, Deputy Minister, Health Canada