



#200 - 1212 W Broadway, Vancouver BC V6H 3V2



December 17, 2007

Denis Choinière  
Director, Regulations and Compliance  
Health Canada  
79 Macdonald Building  
123 Slater St  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Dear Denis:

*SUBJECT: Repeal of the Provincial Tobacco Testing and Disclosure Regulation in BC*

The repeal of the Provincial Tobacco Testing and Disclosure Regulation in British Columbia on November 27, 2007 is a setback nationally and internationally. This regulation was a global model as British Columbia was the only jurisdiction in the world where it was mandatory for public disclosure of cigarette ingredients on a brand-by-brand basis. This information should still be made available to the public.

The data from this regulation has been collected and accessible to the public since 1998. The public disclosure of cigarette ingredients holds tobacco companies accountable for their claims. For example, it would be difficult for a company to claim that products are "additive-free" when information in the public domain lists the additives in each brand of cigarette. Tobacco companies will continue placing certain additives in cigarettes if there is no public disclosure or public scrutiny.

Health Canada has the same information about cigarette ingredients as British Columbia but has not released the data. Now that British Columbia has repealed their Provincial Tobacco Testing and Disclosure Regulation the public needs to have access to this information through Health Canada. By not releasing the data Canadian citizens are not holding the tobacco industry publicly accountable for what is in their products and we are potentially opening a crack in the armour of tobacco control.

The Tobacco Testing and Disclosure Regulation has been crucial element in the global awareness of authority over tobacco companies and we are grateful that you will make this information available to the public.

We would appreciate hearing a response from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wood".

R.F. Bobbe Wood, MA  
President & CEO  
Heart and Stroke Foundation  
of B.C. & Yukon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McDonald".

Scott McDonald  
Executive Director  
BC Lung Association

cc. Jack Boomer, Director, Clean Air Coalition of B.C.  
Shelley Canitz, Director, Tobacco Control Program, Ministry of Health