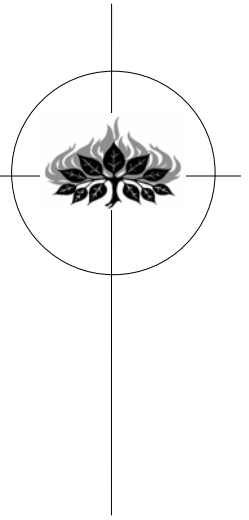


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 131ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. M. Jean Morris, B.A., M. Div., ThM

July 5, 2005

The Hon. David Emerson, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Industry,
House of Commons,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Emerson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 131st General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Our denomination has had a long standing commitment to publicly funded health care. The Presbyterian Church in Canada supports the five principles of the Canada Health Act. As a member of the Canadian Council of Churches, our denomination participated in the submission to the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

The final report of the Royal Commission recommended that aspects of the Patent Act concerning pharmaceuticals should be reviewed. Pharmaceuticals represent the fastest growing area in health care spending. Since 1980, drug expenditures as a proportion of total health expenditures have grown from 5.8% to 12% in 2001. The use of prescription drugs will become more widespread and costs will continue to increase. There will also be cost implications when pharmacogenetics come on stream.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada affirms the positive impact that prescription drugs have on the lives of Canadians. Our denomination acknowledges that there are not unlimited funds for health care. In this regard, a pharmacare program based on a Catastrophic Drug Transfer places limits on what the program will cover and does not place an undue financial hardship on provinces and territories and on citizens.

One factor in the cost increases is the practice of evergreening and the notice of compliance regulations. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry reviewed the practice of evergreening in 2003 but did not make any recommendations.

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp

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The Presbyterian Church in Canada would be interested in learning what specific steps Industry Canada is taking to address evergreening and the notice of compliance regulations as an important strategy in containing costs?

I look forward to hearing from you. Rest assured of our continuing prayers.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Jean Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. M. Jean Morris,
Moderator,
131st General Assembly,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Cc: The Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh, M.P. P.C.

Cc: Mr. James Rajotte, M.P. Industry Critic

Cc: Mr. Paul Crete, M.P. Industry Critic

Cc: Mr. Brian Masse, M.P. Industry Critic

Cc: Mr. Brent St. Denis, M.P. Chair, Standing Committee on Industry, Natural Resources, Science and Technology

Cc: Mr. Werner Schmidt, M.P. Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Industry, Natural Resources, Science and Technology