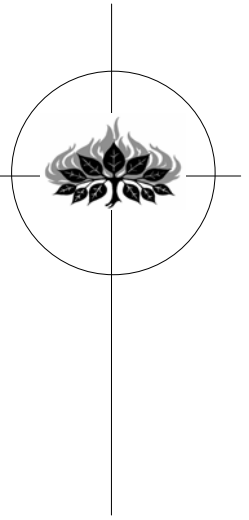


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



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

July 5, 2005

The Hon. James Scott Peterson, P.C. M.P.
Minister of International Trade,
House of Commons,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Peterson,

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 stated that our health care system was vulnerable to challenges under international trade agreements, including the General Agreement on Trade in Services. Recommendation No. 44 in the Final Report stated that:

“The federal and provincial governments should prevent potential challenges to Canada’s health care system by: ensuring that any future reforms they implement are protected under the definition of public services included in international law or trade agreements to which Canada is a party and; reinforcing Canada’s position that the right to regulate health care policy should not be subject to claims for compensation from foreign based companies”.

We would be interested in learning what specific steps the federal government has taken or plans to take in implementing this recommendation.

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

Yours respectfully,

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

Cc: The Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh

Cc: Mr. Ted Menzies, M.P. International Trade Critic

Cc: Mr. Peter Julian, M.P. International Trade Critic

Cc: Mr. Pierre Paquette, M.P. International Trade Critic

Cc: Dr. Bernard Patry, Chair, M.P. Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Cc: Ms. Francine Lalonde, M.P. Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Cc: Mr. Kevin Sorenson, M.P. Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade