

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

MAR 4 2011

Ms. Joyce Reynolds
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association
316 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1W5

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of my staff and officials from Health Canada's Food Directorate, for meeting with us on January 26, 2011, to share the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association's (CRFA) healthy living strategy and its commitment to collaborating with the Department on key nutrition initiatives.

I appreciate having had this opportunity to learn more about the CRFA's plans for developing a national framework for nutrition disclosure in the restaurant industry. Health Canada shares your concerns regarding the potential for a "patchwork" of regulatory systems in different jurisdictions across the country, and acknowledges your support for federal government leadership to facilitate a consistent approach in each province and territory. A strong collaborative effort is needed to consider the views and positions of all stakeholders; I am grateful for the CRFA's commitment to this process.

I commend the CRFA's commitment to limiting trans fat levels in food sold in restaurants and food service establishments, in line with the Trans Fat Task Force's recommendations. I would also like to thank the CRFA for supporting Health Canada in implementing the Sodium Reduction Strategy. As discussed at the meeting, Food Directorate staff will engage the CRFA and related stakeholders on the proposed sodium reduction targets in the coming weeks. An open and constructive process will be key in ensuring that the challenges that this sector faces are taken into consideration, while aiming to achieve the Strategy's public health objectives.

My department looks forward to the CRFA's input as we move forward with measures to protect the health of Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leona Aglukkaq".

Leona Aglukkaq

Canada