

Via e-mail: Jane.Philpott@parl.gc.ca

Original to follow via Canada Post

February 20, 2017

The Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Health
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

RE: In Support of Health Canada's New Healthy Eating Strategy

Dear Minister Philpott,

As members of the Canadian Food Funder Collaborative we are writing to express our support for Health Canada's Healthy Eating Strategy. We agree that taking bold action to improve the food environment and supporting healthy eating initiatives offers the promise to reduce decades old trends of growing obesity rates and diet related chronic diseases.

The Canadian Food Funders' Collaborative is a group of 19 food funders, 13 of which are foundations that work on food systems and issues from diverse perspectives and geographies in Canada. We invest in projects such as food access and security, including indigenous communities; nutrition, health, education, social enterprise development, food distribution and storage, and sustainable farming practices. Our organizations collectively grant \$16.5 million dollars, dispersed across some 225 separate projects each year.

As funders, we recognize that real progress requires integrated solutions. In April 2016, we collaborated to publish a report entitled "Sustainable Food Systems – A Landscape Assessment for Canadian Philanthropy" (attached). The Report describes the diversity of issues in the food system, and challenges us to address gaps and opportunities.

We are pleased that the new Healthy Eating Strategy addresses the following topics, many of which are found in our Report:

- Restricting the commercial marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children (16 and under).
- Collaborate with northern indigenous communities to improve food security, including Nutrition North and the revised Northern Food Basket.
- Revision of Canada's Food Guide.
- Finalizing the Nutrition Facts Table and list of ingredients on food labels.
- Work to reduce sodium in prepackaged foods and the development of sodium reduction targets for restaurants and the food service sector.
- Elimination of industrially produced trans-fat from the food supply.
- Enabling health claims to be permitted for fruits and vegetables.

In addition to areas outlined in our report, we also wish to state our support of a levy on sugar sweetened beverages (SSB's). With SSB's being the single largest contributor of sugar to the Canadian diet with no health benefits, it is a logical area to target for maximum benefit for the health of Canadians. A multiplier effect could be achieved by investing the income raised by such a levy in initiatives that promote health and nutrition, such as healthy school food programs. As funders of such initiatives, we understand the need for long term and stable funding for greater impact.

As stakeholders and funders, we recognize that implementing this very important and timely New Healthy Eating Strategy is a priority and will require broad based support. We view this as a shared responsibility and look forward to understanding what roles we may play, including working with you and other stakeholders to develop concrete policies that implement the Strategy.

We congratulate you, the Government of Canada and contributing stakeholders for moving forward with this exciting and much needed strategy to lower obesity rates and diet related chronic diseases.

Sincerely,

Members of the Canadian Food Funder Collaborative:



Laura Arrell, Managing Director
Arrell Family Foundation
Foundation



Brian and Joannah Lawson
The Brian and Joannah Lawson Family



Ian Bird, President
Community Foundations of Canada



Llewellyn Smith, Chairman
The Helderleigh Foundation



Burkhard Mausberg, CEO
Greenbelt Fund

Juliana Sprott

Juliana Sprott, President
The Sprott Foundation



Martha Powell, President & CEO
London Community Foundation



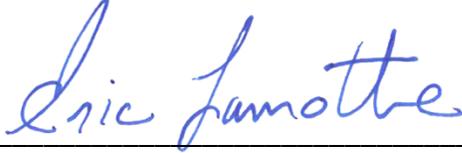
Ross McMillan, President & CEO
Tides Canada



Stephen Huddart, President & CEO
J.W. McConnell Family Foundation



J. Alexander Houston, President & CEO
Metcalf Foundation



Eric Lamothe, Directeur général
Quebec En Forme



Kevin McCort, President & CEO
Vancouver Foundation



Sandra Richardson, CEO
Victoria Foundation

Attachment: 1

cc: (via e-mail)

- Hon. Glen Abernethy, Minister of Health and Social Services, Government of Northwest Territories
- Hon. Gaétan Barrette, Minister of Health and Social Services, Government of Quebec
- Hon. Victor Boudreau, Minister of Health, Government of New Brunswick
- Hon. Pauline Frost, Minister of Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon
- Hon. Leo A. Glavine, Minister of Health and Wellness, Government of Nova Scotia
- Hon. Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living, Government of Manitoba
- Hon. Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services, Government of Newfoundland
- Hon. Robert L. Henderson, Minister of Health and Wellness, Government of Prince Edward Island
- Hon. George Hicke, Minister of Health, Government of Nunavut
- Hon. Sarah Hoffman, Minister of Health, Government of Alberta
- Hon. Eric Hoskins, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Government of Ontario
- Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Health, Government of British Columbia
- Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, Government of Canada
- Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Health, Government of Saskatchewan
- Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario and co-chair, Health Care Innovation Working Group