



BY FAX AND MAIL

Friday, November 10, 2006

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
Premier of Ontario and Minister of Research and Innovation  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A4

Dear Premier,

Now that our respective organizations have reviewed and assessed the changes to pharmaceutical and health care policies adopted by your government, we are writing to express our serious concern regarding the impact that the *Transparent Drug System for Patients Act (Bill 102)* will have on patients, on the life sciences sector, and on the pharmacy sector in Ontario.

The swift passage of Bill 102 and its regulations, and minimal consultation on the effect of the sweeping changes it makes to health care, has jeopardized all of the achievements that our sectors have built for the people of Ontario. Many of the changes are impractical and create major uncertainty for everyone.

Although the legislation came into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>, there remains a critical misunderstanding of the consequences – both intended and unintended - on each of the elements within our health care system. Neither the legislation nor the regulations contain evaluation mechanisms to ensure that patients will receive better and faster access to vital medicines or pharmacy services.

To our knowledge, no economic analysis has been completed which accurately measures the impact of the legislation and regulations on our sectors, nor has there been an analysis of the associated implications for patient care. In addition, the new environment created is incompatible with the Government's stated strategy to increase research and development in Ontario.

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Further, while the creation of the Implementation Working Group may be a positive step, the recent communications from the Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care do not allay our concerns, nor do they provide for a delay to the implementation of the regulations and policy changes until such analyses have been completed.

Ultimately, thousands of value-added jobs and billions of dollars in R&D, capital investments, and other economic benefits will be lost in the coming years as a result of the new legislation.

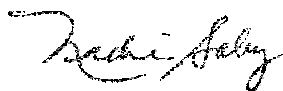
The organizations that have lent their names to this letter are committed to working with your government. We urge you to delay all further implementation of the regulatory and policy elements of the law until there is a full understanding of the impact on our sectors and on the residents of Ontario, and a mechanism for evaluation has been put in place.

The future of health care and innovation in Ontario is too important to be put at risk in this way.

Respectfully,



David W. Johnston  
President and CEO  
Canadian Association for Pharmacy  
Distribution Management



Nadine Saby  
President and CEO  
Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores



Dr. Jeff Poston  
Executive Director  
Canadian Pharmacists Association



Russell Williams  
President and CEO  
Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical  
Companies