

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tel 416-327-4300
Fax 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du ministre

10^e étage, édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tél 416-327-4300
Télééc 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca



April 12, 2013

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

Thank you for your April 11th, 2013 letter regarding the recent discovery of under-dosed cancer medications at four hospitals in Ontario and one hospital in New Brunswick.

As Health Minister for Ontario, my primary concern is for the safety and care of the Ontario patients affected. But I recognize that this is not just an Ontario problem. This issue goes beyond Ontario's borders and requires a national solution.

You and I both share a responsibility to ensure that patients have utmost confidence in our health care system, and that includes the safety of medications that patients receive. Patients want to know that proper oversight is in place for all drugs – including those made in compounding facilities.

That's why I've committed to ensuring that the oversight we need is in place as soon as possible, by working with all of the partners who share responsibility in this issue – including Health Canada. We will do whatever is required to protect patients in Ontario, and we are confident that Health Canada is committed to do their part as well.

I'm pleased to see that Health Canada officials have been cooperating with our efforts to resolve this matter. I understand that Health Canada has confirmed that it will exercise all its legal authority to investigate Marchese Hospital Solutions. This is a vital step to ensure we are taking all the necessary actions to address this incident. Moreover, we expect that with Health Canada's cooperation, the Ontario College of Pharmacists will be able to obtain more information to inform its own investigation.

I agree that a patient voice will make an important contribution to the discussion. That's why we are adding a patient representative to our Working Group identified by the Canadian Cancer Society.

My office continues to reach out to your office to arrange for a meeting by telephone as soon as possible, and I look forward to your positive response so that we can discuss this vital matter shortly.

Sincerely,

Deb Matthews
Minister