

29 June 2008

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Greetings Mr. Clement,

I appreciate your response to my concerns, but I must respectfully repeat my request that you kill Bill C-51.

To begin with, although I'm sure your intentions are well meaning, I believe that they are completely misguided. I don't really care whether you own shares in a pharma company or not – I didn't even mention that in my earlier letter to you, so I don't know why you mentioned it to me in your response. A form letter that isn't even signed by you personally doesn't fill me with confidence in your abilities or judgment. If your signature was real, it wouldn't have pixels of multiple colours like one that is printed by a machine. Your form letter tells me that you are getting a lot of resistance to this ill-conceived bill and that perhaps you can't handle it on an individual basis. I appreciate that you are busy, but please don't ignore us. Listen, ready, consider what your constituents in our great nation are telling you.

Those of us who use natural health products are typically much more aware individuals than the average person who actually believes that your sick-care system is in some way a health-care system. We are not fooled by the labels put on your department and the various "health care" laws. We know enough about ourselves to take care of ourselves our own way. We know that we own ourselves and we take responsibility for our own health care – most of us do not trust "the system". It has repeatedly demonstrated that it is failing us. Our health care system fails to take a holistic approach – it focuses on symptoms, not causes. It attempts to fix parts, not the whole person. By attempting to "fix", it serves to encourage people to abdicate responsibility for their own health to others. I for one, refuse to do that. I'm not interested in the slightest way in "minimum standards". I demand optimum health for myself and I give it to myself. That demands a blend of allotropic and holistic methods and the freedom to choose for myself unencumbered by laws such as C-51 that clearly serves only the special interests of certain industrial groups and the continued expansion of our already bloated government bureaucracy. C-51 is but one of the ways that Canada is plunging itself into mediocrity.

Please let me share where I am coming from.

My business helps industrial clients take a more holistic approach to managing their physical assets – factories, buildings, linear assets (like utilities) and fleets. My clients are seeking optimum solutions. The old style "fixes" just aren't enough any more – they worked well in bygone years but they do not produce the optimum results that our industries need to be competitive on a global scale and in world markets.

A far more holistic approach that includes both the fixes and a greater emphasis on solving deeper problems is required. As I see it, my professional colleagues in the medical community have not yet moved to that more holistic approach. Medical

education does not deal with the whole person – it focuses on fixes to specific problems. Doctors spend a great deal of time learning about combinations of symptoms and relating them to single specific problems but they fail to go beyond that. They do not encourage preventive, predictive and proactively detective approaches at all. They only seem to know “run to failure” strategies followed up with “fix it if you can”. They do not encourage us to truly take our health into our own hands and accept responsibility for it.

And our educational system completely fails to encourage us to do so. Like so many of us who take an active interest in our own well-being I am very much self-educated and I learn more through actively sharing with others who are like-minded. I do this in my own professional work where I am considered a leading authority and I do it in my everyday life. I don't need or want any government to “protect” me from those who might have harmful intent. That is a completely misguided role for government. Nurture the right environment for beneficial change and stop focusing on all the things we “shouldn't” be doing. Encourage growth, don't just tolerate what happens regardless of the meddling done by governments and regulators.

Again, I urge you to scrap this ill-conceived bill that bolsters a system that simply doesn't work. Stop attempting to rob us of our free choice. If you truly mean to do well for Canada and Canadians, and I believe that inside you truly do, then please encourage a holistic approach in the medical and educational systems. They are both sadly in need of significant overhauls – stop tweaking a system that's far too broken for minor adjustments. Accept that it is broken and work to make the fundamental and significant changes that are really needed.

The facts that Canada enjoys a high standard of health are there – I acknowledge that. But we only look good in comparison to a world that full of ill health and abuse. We enjoy good health yes, but not excellent health. Why not excellence? What's so wrong with choosing excellence as a nation? Why are you supporting mediocrity? Don't squash the efforts of those of us who would make this a great nation, each in our own small ways – like beginning with our own health. As we shift, so will those around us. Please don't throw roadblocks in the way – tear them down.

Your truly,

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