

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

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Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

JUL 28 2017

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor of the City of Hamilton
Chair, Board of Health
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 28, 2017, inviting me to meet with you to discuss funding opportunities to support the City of Hamilton's opioid response. I regret the delay in responding.

Unfortunately, my schedule does not permit me to accept your kind invitation.

I too am deeply concerned about the opioid crisis and the devastating impact that it is having on the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. The Government of Canada's comprehensive response to the opioid crisis includes commitments in the areas of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement. These commitments are supported by a strong evidence base and a targeted public health emergency response. More information on the federal government's actions to address the opioid crisis can be found online at <http://www.canada.ca/opioids>.

On November 18 and 19, 2016, I co-hosted an Opioid Conference and Summit, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders for a national dialogue on actions to address and reduce the harms related to opioid use in Canada. A Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis was released at the Summit and is available at <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/substance-abuse-toxicomanie/opioids-opioides/conference-cadre/statement-declaration-eng.php>. The Joint Statement reflects the collective efforts of partners across Canada who are committed to taking concrete actions to address the crisis.

The opioid crisis is a complex issue, but I can assure you that departmental officials will continue to work with health professionals, addiction and pain experts, all levels of government and other stakeholders to implement the Joint Statement of Action and identify new opportunities to address the crisis. I look forward to continuing to work with the Mayors' Task Force on the Opioid Crisis.

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A call for proposals has been issued under Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program. The Program provides \$26.3 million in annual funding under the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy and is linked to its public health-focused, evidence-informed approach to drug policy. Priorities for the call for proposals include addressing opioid issues. The City of Hamilton would be eligible to apply. The detailed information on the call for proposals, including guidelines, priorities and the application process has been forwarded to you at **mayor@hamilton.ca** by Mr. Eméry Gahimbare, Senior Program Manager of the Substance Use and Addictions Program. You may wish to contact him directly should you require additional information.

Again, thank you for writing and for your commitment to this very important issue.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
AUG 22 2017	
REF'D TO	<u>Council Sept 3</u>
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