

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 9:37 AM  
To: Ross, Kara L PREM:EX  
Cc: Davidson, Tamara PREM:EX  
Subject: FW: Urgent Letter from Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies & meeting request  
Importance: High

From: John Willow [mailto:jwillow@canadapharma.org]  
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 8:16 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: Stéphane Lassignardie (stephane.lassignardie@abbvie.com); Russell Williams; DMOFFICE, HLTH HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy HLTH:EX  
Subject: Urgent Letter from Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies & meeting request  
Importance: High

Dear Premier Clark:

On behalf of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) and our British Columbia Committee, I would like to make you aware of our members' concerns regarding the province's Reference Drug Program (RDP). We understand that the province's RDP will soon be expanded, and we are requesting a an opportunity to discuss with you at your earliest convenience. Our concerns are set out in the attached letter.

I will be reaching out to your office by telephone later today to discuss the possibility of a meeting/call with our Rx&D leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

John Willow  
Regional Director - BC

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Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)  
Regional Office in Victoria, BC  
Tel: 250.995.2411      Cell: 250.589.5752  
E-mail: jwillow@canadapharma.org

From: Ross, Kara L PREM:EX  
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 9:44 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: FW: Urgent Letter from Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies & meeting request  
Importance: High

Policy, refer to Minister please.

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Canada's Research-Based  
Pharmaceutical Companies



Les compagnies de recherche  
pharmaceutique du Canada

*President's Office / Bureau du Président*

September 14, 2015

The Honourable Premier Christy Clark  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C.V8W 9E2

*Original was sent by email*

Dear Premier Clark,

I write to you on behalf of *Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)* to inform you of our serious concerns regarding the province's decision to adopt regulatory changes that will negatively impact British Columbians by expanding the Reference Drug Program (RDP) and reaching such an important decision without any meaningful consultation. We have few details of this expansion; however, we understand that a decision to potentially expand the program is imminent. We have discussed our concerns with your staff, specifically Deputy Minister Sweeney, and have shared our concerns in writing with Minister Terry Lake and Minister Andrew Wilkinson. We will be meeting Minister Wilkinson on Tuesday September 15.

We have fundamental concerns about the significant restrictions to patient access placed on medications from the current RDP program and strongly urge you to reconsider any expansion of the program. Further expansion will continue to limit choice to patients who may require a specific medication to best address their individual health needs.

We recognize that British Columbia is under significant financial pressure when it comes to delivering healthcare. When healthcare programs focus exclusively on the cost of medicines, there can be unintended healthcare system costs, complications for patients and a loss of economic productivity. Instead of allowing healthcare providers to make the best decisions for and with their patients, under a program such as the RDP, their ability to use clinical judgment is restricted, which can lead to negative consequences for patients' health outcomes.

What can be perceived as short-term savings, can actually result in longer-term expenses elsewhere in the system. By not prescribing the most effective medicine right away, patients may not get the best health outcomes which could lead to longer treatments, costly hospital stays and more invasive interventions.

The cost of all medicines is a fraction of total health costs (5.3% of total government expenditures in British Columbia in 2013). Investing in access to innovative medicines is the most cost-efficient way of achieving the best health outcomes. By considering a more holistic approach to the system that focuses on the best health outcomes for patients, we believe government can find long-term, sustainable solutions to continue providing high quality care to British Columbians, leading to better health outcomes and productivity.

55 rue Metcalfe Street, Suite/bureau 1220, Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5 Tel/tél: 613-236-0455 Fax/télé: 613-236-6756  
[www.canadapharma.org](http://www.canadapharma.org)

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Any changes to an area of health policy so critical as access to medicines must not be done without broad-based consultations that include all affected stakeholders and must consider options that go far beyond blunt cost containment initiatives. This was highlighted in the government sponsored *Report of the Reference Drug Program Consultation Panel to the Honourable Sindi Hawkins, Minister of Health Planning (April 2002)*, which recommends that any "Program redesign should include meaningful consultation with stakeholders including healthcare professionals, academics, industry representatives and others."

Based on information from the Ministry of Health, it appears the recent RDP review has been completed and recommended changes are ready to go, but without any true consultation with patient groups, healthcare professional associations or industry. Instead, our members and other stakeholders have been invited to participate in information sharing meetings that, we understand, will take place after the government decides on the relevant regulatory changes to the RDP Program.

Again, we urge government to reconsider proceeding with the adoption of regulatory changes to the Reference Drug Program. Recognizing that your schedule is undoubtedly challenging, should you be available to speak to us this week regarding our concerns, we will accommodate whatever availability you may have.

We also welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can meet your fiscal targets for the Ministry of Health without comprising patient care, life science investments and high paying jobs in British Columbia.

John Willow, our Regional Director for British Columbia, will follow up directly with your office. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at 613-236-0455 ext. 725 or [rwilliams@canadapharma.org](mailto:rwilliams@canadapharma.org), or to the Chair of our British Columbia Subcommittee, Stéphane Lassignardie at 514-832-7123.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Russell Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Russell Williams  
President

cc: Stéphane Lassignardie, General Manager, AbbVie Canada,  
and Chair, British Columbia Subcommittee, Rx&D  
Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health  
Katy Merrifield, Chief of Staff, Minister of Health

From: John Willow [mailto:jwillow@canadapharma.org]  
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 11:08 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: Richmond, Carl PREM:EX; Marie-Sophie Barrette; Amelie Brown; Masse, Lena; Jay Shaw  
Subject: Congratulatory Correspondence from Rx&D

Dear Premier Clark,

With respect to your recent meeting with fellow First Ministers at the Council of the Federation meeting in St. John's, please find attached correspondence sent on behalf of Russell Williams, President of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) and Stéphane Lassignardie, General Manager of AbbVie Corporation, and Chair of Rx&D's local BC Committee.

Sincerely,

John Willow  
Regional Director - BC

---

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)  
Regional Office in Victoria, BC  
Tel: 250.995.2411      Cell: 250.589.5752  
E-mail: [jwillow@canadapharma.org](mailto:jwillow@canadapharma.org)

*President's Office / Bureau du Président*

July 24, 2015

The Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier:

On behalf of representatives of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the Economic Productivity and Innovation Working Group. We were pleased to see you take a leadership role in participating in this very important working group alongside your first minister colleagues.

Rx&D represents over 50 international and Canadian companies operating throughout Canada supplying over 12,000 direct jobs and over 21,000 indirect jobs. Over the past two decades, Rx&D members have invested over \$20 billion into health research and we are the largest private sector funder of health research in Canada.

The innovative medicines and vaccines that Rx&D members produce are part of the solution to healthcare sustainability. They save and improve lives, reduce the incidence of hospitalization and surgical intervention, keep people productive and working and help all Canadians with chronic conditions maintain and lead better lives. This societal value was studied by the Conference Board of Canada in 2013. The study found a 2:1 benefit to cost ratio on government investments across six common disease areas.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues when the new council meets to discuss our industry's presence in Canada and how this new council could further strengthen the business environment to attract further pharmaceutical investment as well as address barriers to access. We look forward to our continued collaboration and the role our industry plays in fostering Innovation and further strengthening BC's economy for the foreseeable future.

Once again, please accept our congratulations and our continued commitment and willingness to work with you and your government on fostering healthcare innovation and ensuring British Columbians have access to the innovative treatments they need for future generations to come.

Sincerely,



Russell Williams  
President



Stéphane Lassignardie  
Chair, Rx&D BC Sub Committee  
General Manager, AbbVie Corporation

*President's Office / Bureau du Président*

March 16, 2015

Premier Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
Box 9041, Station PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark,

On behalf of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), I am writing to provide you an update on Rx&D's involvement and commitment to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and to highlight the leadership Canada has shown to help strengthen ethical standards in APEC-member economies, while also enhancing our country's competitiveness.

Rx&D serves as the leading association of research-based pharmaceutical companies operating in Canada with more than 50 member companies. Our members are committed to ethical interactions, recognizing that they are at the heart of patient-centered healthcare by improving access to the safe and effective use of medicines as well as ensuring decisions are made in patients' best interest. High ethical standards also facilitate innovation and cross-border trade by creating fair and predictable business conditions, harmonizing best practices across markets, and reducing compliance risk and legal costs. These benefits are particularly crucial for the small and medium enterprises that comprise a significant majority of biopharmaceutical firms conducting trade in the APEC region.

In 2010, the "Business Ethics for APEC Small and Medium Enterprises" initiative championed the creation of APEC principles for voluntary codes of business ethics in several sectors of importance to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the region, including the medical device and biopharmaceutical sectors. Rx&D was invited by the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2011 to serve as Industry Co-Chair of the Expert Working Group that developed the APEC Mexico City Principles. Heightened ethical interaction in these healthcare sectors are crucial to enhancing patient access to safe and effective medical products, promoting SME innovation, building SME export confidence and ultimately ensuring decisions are made in the best interests of patients.

Industry leaders in the biopharmaceutical sector have strongly supported the APEC Business Ethics Initiative over the past five years since it was launched. Most recently, notable progress was made in 2014 through our industry's public-private partnership with 21 governments through APEC. Together, we have facilitated the development of 18 biopharmaceutical and medical device industry association codes across nine APEC economies where they previously did not exist, expanding high standard practices to nearly 14,000 companies across the Asia Pacific region. Please see the attached backgrounder for more detail on work that has been accomplished by the biopharmaceutical sector since 2010.

The 2014 APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum in Nanjing, China was an important milestone for this initiative. The event convened over 200 participants from more than 80 organizations across 20 APEC economies, including dozens of SMEs and their industry associations, to strengthen regional capacity through ethics training as well as to provide strategic vision and recommendations for the initiative. The



Forum's plenary session achieved unanimous support for the "Nanjing Declaration" containing strategic goals and numerous actions for key stakeholders in the biopharmaceutical and medical device sector. Subsequently endorsed by APEC SME Ministers and APEC Ministers, the Declaration provides significant, multi-stakeholder buy-in to advance this initiative through 2020. We understand preparations are advancing very well for the next APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum to take place in Manila, Philippines on 19-20 August 2015.

Members of our industry are united in their belief that high ethical standards promote a level playing field for all enterprises across the Asia Pacific region. Harmonizing best practices in the biopharmaceutical sector also makes it easier for small and large companies alike to conduct business across borders. We are committed to taking a leading role and to driving results year after year.

At Rx&D we support this work because we know well that behaving ethically is both good for patients and good for business. We're convinced that levelling the playing field by establishing high ethical standards will enable our members to increase exports to fast-growing markets throughout Asia, preserving and strengthening the financial security of hard-working Canadians and generating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity across the country.

Opportunities in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region are significant for Canadian exporters from many of Canada's key economic sectors. Asia-Pacific countries represent huge markets and great economic opportunities. Between 2010 and 2014, Canada's imports from China alone grew by almost 32 per cent, while Canadian exports to China grew by over 45 per cent. In fact, China has now surpassed the United Kingdom to become Canada's second-largest export destination, after the United States.

The Government of Canada's continued commitment to supporting this initiative is yet another example of our country's leadership on the world stage. Indeed, the global community is paying attention. These positive developments and Canada's leadership on the APEC Business Ethics initiative can enhance our public image on the global stage and strengthen Canada's global economic competitiveness.

We are immensely proud of the measurable outcomes we have achieved so far and we look forward to working with you to build on our successes to date.

In addition to this letter, I have included some further information about the initiative, as well as information about the valuable contribution Rx&D member companies make in communities across Canada.

As this initiative continues to advance, I will keep you updated, especially on activities and initiatives that will create win-win opportunities for both sides.

In the meantime, should you require any more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Russell Williams'.

Russell Williams,  
President



## Wray, Stephanie PREM:EX

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**From:** Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 10:49 AM  
**To:** Wray, Stephanie PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Letter from Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies & meeting request  
**Attachments:** 20150914\_BC\_RDP\_Letter\_Premier Clark.pdf  
**Importance:** High

For FOI 62527

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**From:** John Willow [<mailto:jwillow@canadapharma.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 8:18 AM  
**To:** Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Letter from Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies & meeting request  
**Importance:** High

Morning Neil. FYI, the attached was just sent to the Premier via below email.

*John*

---

**John Willow**  
Regional Director – BC  
Rx&D  
Tel: 250.995.2411 Cell: 250.589.5752  
Email: [jwillow@canadapharma.org](mailto:jwillow@canadapharma.org)

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**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 8:16 AM  
**To:** 'OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX ([Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca))'  
**Cc:** Stéphane Lassignardie ([stephane.lassignardie@abbvie.com](mailto:stephane.lassignardie@abbvie.com)); Russell Williams; Stephen Brown ([hlth.dmoffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hlth.dmoffice@gov.bc.ca)); 'katy.merrifield@gov.bc.ca'  
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**Importance:** High

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**Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)**

Regional Office in Victoria, BC  
Tel: 250.995.2411 Cell: 250.589.5752  
E-mail: [jwillow@canadapharma.org](mailto:jwillow@canadapharma.org)

Rx&D Mailing Address: 55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1220, Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5  
Rx&D Website: [www.canadapharma.org](http://www.canadapharma.org)

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Canada's Research-Based  
Pharmaceutical Companies



Les compagnies de recherche  
pharmaceutique du Canada

*President's Office / Bureau du Président*

September 14, 2015

The Honourable Premier Christy Clark  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

*Original was sent by email*

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Sincerely,

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Russell Williams  
President

cc: Stéphane Lassignardie, General Manager, AbbVie Canada,  
and Chair, British Columbia Subcommittee, Rx&D  
Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health  
Katy Merrifield, Chief of Staff, Minister of Health