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CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

March 9, 2016

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, PC, MP  
Minister of Science  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Duncan:

On behalf of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election and appointment as Minister of Science.

CPHA is the independent voice for public health in Canada with links to national and international communities and stakeholders. CPHA's members believe in universal and equitable access to the basic conditions that are necessary to achieve health for all. As the only national non-governmental organization focused exclusively on public health in Canada, CPHA is uniquely positioned to advise decision-makers about healthy public policy and to guide initiatives to help safeguard the personal and community health of Canadians and people around the world.

You and your colleagues in government deserve commendation for the many strong statements made during the election in defense of the use of evidence in policy-making. We encourage you to follow through on these commitments, in particular as you develop the position of Chief Science Officer with the mandate to ensure that government science is fully available to the public, and that scientific analyses are considered when the government makes decisions.

We urge you to consider the value of a Chief Science Officer who has a background in health to help ensure that the Government of Canada consider the health impact of policies across all departments, thereby ensuring a whole of government approach to the health and well-being of Canadians. As Sir Michael Marmot has noted, "every minister is a minister of health" as the legislation, regulations and policies of each ministry can have a direct or indirect impact on the health and well-being of Canadians.

As the Prime Minister pointed out in your mandate letter, he expects "all ministers to do their part – individually and collectively – to improve economic opportunity and security for Canadians." Ensuring that the Chief Science Officer has an understanding and appreciation of health will be an important step for your Ministry as a healthy workforce is a productive and efficient workforce.

We hope that you will take this request into consideration as you craft the terms of reference for the Chief Science Officer and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the relevance and importance of health to this position. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 613-725-3769, ext. 142 or at [iculbert@cpha.ca](mailto:iculbert@cpha.ca)

Once again, congratulations on your appointment and we look forward to working with you to advance these important priorities.

Sincerely,

Ian Culbert  
Executive Director

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