

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

JUN 08 2018

Mr. Albert F. Chambers
Executive Director
Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition
cscfsc@monachus.com

Dear Mr. Chambers:

Thank you for your further correspondence of April 18, 2018, inviting me to meet with you to discuss the Government's commitment to food safety initiatives in Canada.

The Government of Canada is committed to food safety. We have a world-class food safety system and Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will continue to build on their strengths and reputations as trustworthy regulators.

Thank you for your support for the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and Regulations, and your conclusion that they move the Canadian regulatory regime forward significantly. I trust that I can count on you and your members to help build awareness of the importance of this evolution in our regulatory framework for food safety.

I can assure you that regulatory change will not end in 2018. The Government is committed to continuous evolution to keep up with science, new technologies and global realities.

In Budget 2018, the Government launched a regulatory reform agenda focused on supporting innovation and business investment. The goal is to make the Canadian regulatory system more agile, transparent, and responsive, so that businesses across the country can explore and act on new opportunities, resulting in benefits for all Canadians.

One of the first targeted reviews will involve the agri-food and aquaculture sectors. Over the coming months, there will be opportunities for industry to raise regulatory issues that impede innovation. I welcome the Coalition's participation. I believe that some of the issues flagged in your correspondence could be considered through that review.

.../2

Canada

I appreciate your commitment to constant improvement and your feedback on future areas for positive change in relation to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*. The Agency is open to establishing a process to work with you if there are unintended consequences or comparability challenges with the Regulations, to collaboratively discuss criteria and processes for establishing food safety objectives and to beginning the policy work on the issues you have raised in relation to transportation and third party storage in 2019.

We share your view on the importance of the Food Safety Recognition Programs, the development of shared food safety competencies and understanding between industry and government, and the formation of closer relationships with partners, including industry and provinces and territories. Departmental officials would be happy to talk further with you on these issues.

The CFIA is actively discussing regulatory modernization with its provincial and territorial counterparts. The move to a single approach to federal food inspection, founded on outcome-based, internationally recognized standards, will facilitate greater alignment in the future.

I believe that the CFIA Advisory Committee continues to be an important venue for in-depth CFIA engagement in an environment of continuously evolving food safety issues. Health Canada officials are open to discussing with you how that Committee could be broadened to be the venue for honest discussion of food safety between an informed cross-section of industry stakeholders and the Health portfolio.

While I am unable to meet with you at this time, I understand that you are actively engaged in discussions with both departmental officials and staff in my office.

Again, thank you for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, P.C., M.P.

*I cannot do pay a
huge thank you for
your support.
G.*