



CANADA

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Room 162, Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

and

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities
Room 507, Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

August 11, 2016

Dear Minister Philpott and Minister Qualtrough:

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology tabled a report in the Senate, entitled: [Obesity in Canada: A Whole-of-Society Approach for a Healthier Canada](#). Our report contained 21 recommendations suggesting, among other things, a complete revision of Canada's food guide to better reflect scientific evidence, a ban on advertising food and drink to children, a possible tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, a review of nutrition food labelling to make it easier to understand, and a plan for making healthy food more affordable.

The committee also requested a complete and detailed response to the report from the government. On Friday, August 5, 2016, the Government of Canada tabled its [response](#) with the Clerk of the Senate and the response has been referred to the committee for further consideration.

Overall, the committee is pleased that the government agrees in principle with the report but is concerned that your response does not provide a clear timeline for any significant action. The committee had also hoped to receive more specific and detailed explanations of how the government plans to implement some of the improvements and innovations that were suggested in our report.

The committee is nonetheless encouraged by the fact that the directives implied in your Ministerial mandate letters, along with your recognition of the committee's recommendations could, if acted on, be to the benefit to the health of Canadians. The committee intends to continue to monitor and comment from time to time on the government's progress on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kelvin Kenneth Ogilvie in red ink.

The Honourable Kelvin Kenneth Ogilvie, Chair

Handwritten signature of Art Eggleton in blue ink.

The Honourable Art Eggleton, P.C., Deputy Chair

cc. Shaila Anwar, Clerk of the Committee