



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de santé
publique du Canada

Chief Public
Health Officer

Administrateur en chef
de la santé publique

RECEIVED
JUN 27 2005
ALPHA

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

JUN 20 2005

Ms. Linda Stewart
Executive Director
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Suite 502 - 425 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1T6

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 5, 2005, concerning the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS).

The Public Health Agency of Canada (as did the Population and Public Health Branch of Health Canada) consistently supported the development of the CHMS. We view the CHMS as a unique opportunity to collect and analyze biological specimens using population-representative sampling to provide Canadian normative data on environmental contaminants, nutrition, and disease markers. These data will be used by the Agency to support many program areas.

The Health Surveillance Coordination Committee has participated in the development of the CHMS, and has representatives from across the Agency and liaison members from Health Canada, including the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch. Recently, the Committee held discussions regarding sample size requirements and measures included in the CHMS, which for environmental contaminants includes lead, cadmium, manganese, and mercury. Our Health Canada colleagues have also identified additional environmental contaminants, including Cotinine, Phthalates, PCBs, Organochlorine pesticides, Organophosphate pesticides, other herbicides (such as 24D), and Biphenol A, for consideration in future surveys.

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Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada will continue to advise on the development and implementation of the CHMS with Statistics Canada and to liaise with Health Canada on this issue.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Butler-Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Butler-Jones, MD
MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM