

Office of the Minister
of Health and the Minister
for the Federal Economic Development
Initiative for Northern Ontario



Cabinet du ministre
de la Santé et Ministre de
l'initiative fédérale du développement
économique dans le Nord de l'Ontario

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

FEB 06 2008

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

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alPHa

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 31, 2007, addressed to the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, concerning the alPHa Resolution A07-2, childhood obesity and trans fats. I regret the delay in responding.

Minister Clement shares your concerns regarding the health risks facing overweight Canadians, especially children. As you know, obesity is a complex issue and the solution requires a multi-sector and comprehensive approach. Activities being undertaken by the Government of Canada to promote healthy eating and physical activity are detailed in the Government's response to the report of the Standing Committee on Health on childhood obesity. This response can be found online at <http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteePublication.aspx?SourceId=213785>.

As of June 20, 2007, Health Canada has called on industry to show significant progress by June 2009 to reduce trans fats levels, or the Government will introduce regulations to ensure the levels are met.

On December 20, 2007, Minister Clement announced that the first set of data from the Trans Fat Monitoring Program has been posted, and the results are encouraging. Through the Program, Health Canada will monitor the food industry to ensure that progress is being made towards these commitments. Updated results from this program, which analyses the trans fat content of food samples deemed to be significant sources of trans fats, will be made available approximately every six months on Health Canada's website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/gras-trans-fats/tfa-age_e.html.

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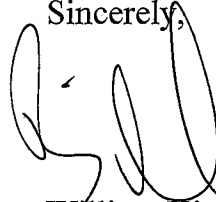
Canada

Canada is the first country to publicly post this type of monitoring data related to trans fats levels in commercial foods. This is being done so that Canadians can directly monitor industry progress. The next set of data is planned for posting in the spring of 2008.

Health Canada continues to encourage consumers to use the Nutrition Facts tables to help choose food products that are low in both trans and saturated fats. This year we initiated a healthy eating public-awareness campaign promoting Canada's Food Guide. The Guide now includes information on the importance of limiting trans fats and saturated fat in the diet.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. King', written over a faint circular stamp.

William King
Chief of Staff