



October 2nd, 2009

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Aglukkaq,

On behalf of the 80,000 farmers represented by the Grain Growers of Canada, I am writing to you in support of proposed changes to Canada's current regulatory process for registering generic agricultural pest control products.

As farmers, we feel that once products are off patent there needs to be a clear and fair process to allow generics to enter the market, while at the same time ensuring the companies who do the innovation research are fairly compensated.

PMRA has done extensive consultations with the industry and with farm groups. Although a wide range of opinions were expressed, we feel confident that PMRA was able to find a reasonable balance between the interests of the innovators, generics and farmers.

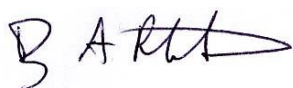
We understand that the regulatory package, which will include a workable dispute resolution process, will be reaching your office in the very near future and we encourage you to expedite this file so it can go to the Gazette, Part 1.

As you know, Canadian farmers compete in a global environment and whether we purchase generics or innovators products, we anticipate these changes will help facilitate a competitive pricing environment for off patent products, which is our goal.

Canada's current regulatory approach, to approve new innovation in plants and foods is widely regarded as the best in the world by groups such as the World Health Organization and the OECD. We are confident the package before you will ensure this continues to be the case.

In summary, the Grain Growers of Canada urge you to move this file forward on a timely basis. We would be pleased to discuss this further with you or your Department at any time.

Sincerely,



Doug Robertson
President
Grain Growers of Canada

CC: Hon. Gerry Ritz

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