Mr. François Couillard  
Ms. Ondina Love  
Co-Chairs  
Organizations for Health Action  
kpaddison@cdha.ca

Dear Mr. Couillard, Ms. Love and Co-signatories:

Thank you for your letter of January 12, 2018, expressing your ongoing support for the Healthy Eating Strategy. I regret the delay in responding.

We appreciate the input your members have provided as we move forward on a number of Healthy Eating Strategy initiatives. This collaborative approach is essential because the Government of Canada cannot act alone. Every sector of society must be mobilized for action.

One of the key goals of the Strategy is to reduce Canadians’ risk of chronic diseases through healthier eating. We are focused on making the healthier choice the easier choice for all Canadians. This includes regulatory and policy initiatives, such as revising Canada’s Food Guide, strengthening labelling and claims, improving the nutritional quality of foods, front-of-package nutrition labelling and restricting the commercial marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children. Health Canada is also working closely with other government departments and agencies, including aligning our work with the health and food safety pillar of A Food Policy for Canada.

As you are aware, we concluded our second online consultation on Canada’s Food Guide this past summer. The results of the consultation will be published in a What We Heard report in 2018.

We are currently considering the input from stakeholders, experts and the general public as we finalize our recommendations, and ensure that new guidance and supporting resources are relevant and useful to Canadians. New healthy eating recommendations and supporting resources for Canadians will begin to be released starting this year and into 2019.

Canada
On February 9, 2018, I announced that the Department launched consultations on regulations for a new front-of-package nutrition symbol on processed foods. A front-of-package symbol is intended to provide Canadians with a clear visual cue when a processed food is high in sodium, sugars, or saturated fat. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on the formal regulatory package in the Canada Gazette, Part I (http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2018/2018-02-10/html/reg2-eng.html). In addition, a simultaneous consultation is in progress on the symbol. We encourage all Canadians to participate at https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-front-of-package-nutrition-labelling-cgi.html.

Furthermore, there will be an opportunity to provide input on the front-of-package nutrition labelling initiative in an upcoming online consultation. I hope your members will participate in this consultation to share their thoughts on this important initiative.

To receive updates on upcoming consultations and a notification when the What We Heard report is published, please encourage your members to sign-up on the CSIMS registry at https://csims-sgici.hc-sc.gc.ca/csims/login.html, if they have not already done so. At the “Areas of Interest” screen, select “Food Safety and Nutrition” and “Canada’s Food Guide/Nutrition.”

Again, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the health of Canadians. Your experience and feedback, as health professionals, is crucial to our efforts to make the healthier choice the easier choice.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

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