



Patented Medicine
Prices Review Board
Canada

Conseil d'examen du prix
des médicaments brevetés
Canada

Box L40, Standard Life Centre
333 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 1400
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C1

PROTECTED

December 5, 2018

Durhane Wong-Rieger
President, Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders
durhane@optimizinghealth.org

Martine Elias
Executive Director, Myeloma Canada
melias@myeloma.ca

RE: PMPRB Steering Committee on Modernization of Prices Review Process Guidelines

Dear Ms. Wong-Rieger and Ms. Elias,

Thank you for your letter dated November 29, 2018, expressing your concerns with respect to statements attributed to the PMPRB's Executive Director, Doug Clark, in CBC reporter Kelly Crowe's November 24, 2018, article entitled "Canada has found the key to lowering drug prices, but it won't be used any time soon".

The purpose of the ongoing Steering Committee deliberations in which you are taking part on behalf of COD is to solicit stakeholder feedback in developing a Guidelines framework which would give effect to the policy expressed in Health Canada's proposed amendments to the Patented Medicines Regulations.

The statements made by Mr. Clark to which you take exception were made in the context of a discussion between Mr. Clark and Ms. Crowe about Ms. Crowe's February 17, 2018 article entitled "Following the money between patient groups and Big Pharma" which had noted that patient groups and industry had a similar message in their opposition to Health Canada's efforts to lower drug prices by way of the proposed regulatory reforms.

Regarding your concerns about confidentiality, Mr. Clark was not asked about the specifics of any discussions that have taken place during Steering Committee deliberations and did not volunteer any. The information in the article relating to the context in which the Steering Committee had been struck was a matter of public record.

Information about the Steering Committee's deliberations is available on the PMPRB's website, including meeting agendas, minutes, presentations made by PMPRB Staff and the Terms of Reference. (<http://www.pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca/view.asp?ccid=1378&lang=en>).

We look forward to continuing to engage COD, Myeloma Canada, and the other stakeholders on the Steering Committee at our next meeting as we seek to incorporate as many viewpoints as possible on the PMPRB's proposed new framework.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mitchell Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Mitchell Levine
Chairperson, Patented Medicines Prices Review Board