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FEB 06 2007

Will Johnston, MD  
President  
Canadian Physicians for Life  
PO Box 1289  
Ottawa ON K0A 2Z0

Dear Dr. Johnston:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2006, concerning the use of vaccines developed from the MRC5 cell line originally developed from fetal tissue. I apologize for the delayed response.

I understand that your concerns have been shared with Ministers of Health across Canada. Accordingly, I believe it is appropriate that a national response be developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. I understand this is being undertaken.

In the interim, I am assured by our vaccine experts at the BC Centre for Disease Control that although the origins of the MRC5 cell line was fetal tissue, no cells are present in the vaccine nor was a life taken for the purpose of creating this cell line.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Abbott'.

George Abbott  
Minister