

JAN 16 2007

Wil Johnston, MID, President
Canadian Physicians for Life
P.O. Box 1289
Ottawa, ON
K0A 2Z0

Dear Dr. Johnston:

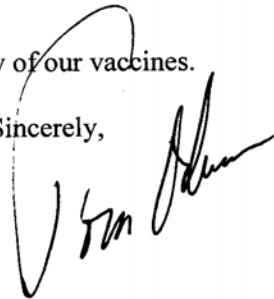
Thank you for your recent letter of inquiry regarding immunization programs, in particular the source of vaccines in Canada. Newfoundland and Labrador prides itself on the excellence of the immunization programs and safe, effective vaccines offered to children and adults. All immunization programs offered in the province are consistent with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and Canadian Immunization Guidelines. As part of these programs, the safe and secure supply of vaccine is of utmost concern.

With other provinces and territories, Newfoundland and Labrador participates in the National Immunization Strategy to ensure a safe and secure supply of vaccines. Participation in the National Immunization Strategy provides opportunity for the province to purchase vaccines which have been approved and safety tested for use in children. These vaccines have reduced disease and improved health since the 1940s.

If parents wish to choose vaccines that are not part of the Newfoundland and Labrador public health schedule they may wish to visit a family physician, unfortunately these visits or vaccine are not publicly funded.

I trust this answers your concerns regarding the safety of our vaccines.

Sincerely,



TOM OSBORNE
Minister