



Health Promotion and Protection
Office of the Minister

PO Box 487, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2R7 • Telephone 902 424-5627 Fax 902 424-7983 • www.gov.ns.ca/hpp

Dr. W. Johnston
President
Canadian Physicians for Life
PO Box 1289
Ottawa, ON K0A 2Z0

Dear Dr. Johnston:

I have been asked by the Honourable Chris d'Entremont, Minister of Health, Nova Scotia Department of Health, to respond to your letter dated November 22, 2006 regarding the use of tissue from aborted fetuses in the production of vaccines in Canada.

The Nova Scotia Government is aware that some, but not all, vaccines are made from human cell-line cultures, and some of these cell lines were derived from two aborted fetuses more than 30 years ago. No new fetal tissue is used to produce cell lines to make vaccine and no vaccine contains animal or human cells.

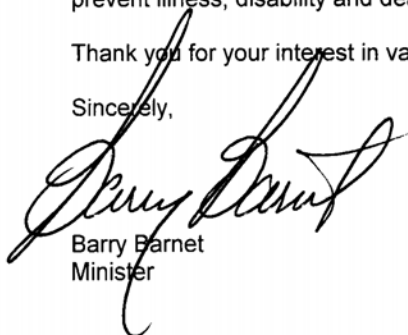
The vaccines made in Canada are highly effective and safe. Vaccines for humans are regulated in Canada by the Biologics and Genetic Therapeutics Directorate of Health Canada. This Bureau supervises all aspects of vaccine production by the manufacturers. Vaccines must undergo several stages of rigorous testing before they are approved for use. Once approved the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) makes recommendations to provinces and territories to assist in the development of immunization programs.

One of the components of the National Immunization Strategy is Vaccine Procurement and the issue of vaccine security of supply. Through an FPT process the Government of Nova Scotia, along with other provincial governments and the vaccine manufacturers, work closely to ensure security of vaccine supply and hence equitable access of vaccines to the citizens of Nova Scotia and Canada.

The Nova Scotia Government remains committed in providing safe and effective vaccines to prevent illness, disability and death.

Thank you for your interest in vaccines.

Sincerely,



Barry Barnett
Minister

Post marked Jan. 11/07.