

May 17, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington St.  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

**Subject: Request to delay implementation of PMPRB regulations in light of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic**

On behalf of Ontario's life sciences community, I am writing to commend you and your government for taking a number of important steps to address the COVID-19 crisis and prepare our country for the future, including through significant investments made to build Canada's biomanufacturing and life sciences capacity in Budget 2021. These investments will certainly help promote life sciences growth, which is vital to supporting the economic recovery, safeguarding our health security, and protecting the health and wellbeing of Canadians, now and in the future.

However, the crisis is far from over. We are now in the midst of the third and most devastating wave of the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has put some health systems under immense pressure and stretched others beyond their capacity. Canada's health and life sciences community remains unconditionally committed to supporting ongoing efforts to address the crisis, including by ensuring the stable supply of essential medicines, diagnostics and equipment, and developing and deploying new tools that are needed to combat COVID-19.

We are hopeful that some of these interventions will help contain this deadly third wave of the outbreak and provide much needed relief to our health system and our society. However, time is of the essence. Our collective efforts must remain unwaveringly focused on responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In this context, our sector faces an impending challenge – the planned implementation of the Government of Canada's amendments to the *Patented Medicines Regulations*. These regulations are threatening to undermine our sector's response to the crisis at this critical juncture, by siphoning time, resources, and attention away from the crisis.

For this reason, **we respectfully request that the Government of Canada defer the July 1st, 2021 implementation date of the *Patented Medicines Regulations* by six months.**

The government has already taken critical action to delay these reforms due to the first and second waves of the pandemic, and given that our current circumstances remain unchanged, we believe an additional delay is necessary and justified.

Deferring the implementation date of these regulations will greatly support our sector's response to the pandemic, while also allowing time for more dialogue on the changes – which remain a significant and pressing threat for our sector and our health system.

We appreciate that you and your ministers are working to implement policies that will support the health system's capacity to address this crisis, and we urge you to consider adopting this measure as part of your response. Regardless, you have the life sciences sector's unconditional support in our collective battle against this virus. If you or your officials have any questions about this recommendation, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Field', is positioned above the typed name.

Jason Field  
President & CEO  
Life Sciences Ontario  
C: (647) 821-3392  
[jason.field@lifesciencesontario.ca](mailto:jason.field@lifesciencesontario.ca)

C.c.: Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health  
Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board Secretariat  
Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry