



**Canadian Pensioners Concerned Incorporated**  
**La Corporation des Retraités Canadiens Intéressés**  
**National**

Bonnie Brown, MP  
Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Health,  
House of Commons,  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

March 2, 2004

Re: Competition Bureau's Response to our Application for an Inquiry  
Into Anticompetitive Practices in the Canadian Pharmaceutical Industry

Dear Ms Brown,

I am writing to you in both frustration and hope.

My frustration is that once again we have been turned down in our long search to bring an end to the practices that have led to the prolongation of unnecessarily high prices in prescription drugs in Canada. [I am enclosing a copy of the letter sent to our lawyer, Mr. Tim Gilbert, by the head of the Competition Bureau, Ms Sheridan Scott.] We raised this issue in our appearance before your Committee when you were in Toronto. At that time you commented that your Committee, unlike the Industry Committee, would be prepared to act.

My hope is that you will see in the letter that the Competition Bureau does acknowledge that "from a competition policy perspective in particular, the government may wish to review the current regulatory process established by the NOC Regulations to ensure that an appropriate balance be maintained between protecting intellectual property rights and encouraging a competitive supply of pharmaceutical products for consumers." (p3). We trust that you will consider this recommendation in your review of the current situation in Canada.

We have argued for a number of years that there is not a balance in the regulatory process and we consumers and Provincial Governments, through their Drug Benefit Plans, have paid the price. The United States Government acted this past summer to rectify this imbalance yet our Government appears to be unwilling or incapable of acting in a similar way. I am once again requesting that your Committee will finally show that someone is listening to our concerns. We believe that what we have asked for is reasonable and fair.

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We look forward to hearing from your Committee and thank you for undertaking the effort to give citizens an opportunity to appear before you. I am enclosing a copy of our brief which you received earlier as well as the Competition Bureau letter to our lawyer. I will fax and email a copy of this letter and the enclosures to you as I am worried about the quality of the fax. I will also email a copy of this letter and attachments to the Committee directly so that they can be circulated to the other members.

Yours sincerely,

Gerda Kaegi, President

Enclosures:

Brief to House of Commons Standing Committee on Health

Letter to Mr. Tim Gilbert dated February 27, 2004

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