

December 1, 2009

Dr. Harvey Chochinov
Chair, CIHR Standing Committee on Ethics
Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care
Professor of Psychiatry
University of Manitoba and
CancerCare Manitoba
harvey.chochinov@cancercare.mb.ca

Dear Dr. Chochinov,

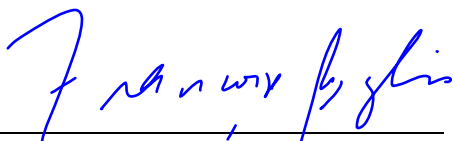
I listened to Dr. Beaudet's testimony before the Standing Committee on Health November 30th at which time I learned that the CIHR Governing Council had sent a unanimous letter of support to the Standing Committee on Health welcoming the appointment of Dr. Prigent (copy attached).

I was very surprised to hear of this letter as I know that you are a member of Governing Council and I also know that, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Ethics, you had heard the strong reservations expressed by the CIHR Institute Advisory Board Ethics Designates and the members of the CIHR Standing Committee on Ethics at their joint meeting on November 9, 2009. Can you please share with me your reasons for supporting this controversial appointment by signing this letter in the face of these reservations?

Can you also please tell me whether you conveyed to members of CIHR GC the fact that those tasked with bringing ethics expertise to the organization (i.e., the IAB ethics designates and the Standing Committee on Ethics) were not supportive of this appointment? Where members of CIHR GC provided with any documentation about the nature of the concern?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Françoise Baylis, PhD, FRSC
Professor and Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Philosophy

cc.

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