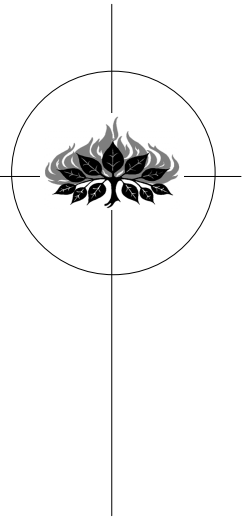


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 139TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Dr. David W.K. Sutherland, B.Comm., M.Div., Th.M., D.Min.

Monday, July 15, 2013

The Hon. Rona Ambrose,
Minister of Health,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Ambrose,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the 139th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada which met in Toronto, May 31 to June 3, 2013.

I am writing to you regarding a report our General Assembly received on “direct to consumer genetic testing”. Many Canadians will be familiar with genetic tests and will have had genetic testing carried out under a doctor’s supervision. The tests are administered under ethical guidelines. The patient and family members may receive counseling regarding the potential benefits and risks of doing the tests. Following the tests, the results are interpreted by a doctor and the results and the implications of the results are discussed with the patient and the family.

Direct to consumer genetic testing is a recent development. A variety of direct to consumer genetic tests are now available to Canadians. The costs for these tests are dropping. As the costs continue to drop, more Canadians may well send samples for genetic tests to labs in the United States and in Canada.

On behalf of the 139th General Assembly, I am inquiring about the federal regulations that are in place regarding “direct to consumer genetic testing” and the nature of the oversight of labs in Canada that may provide “direct to consumer genetic testing”?

I look forward to hearing from you. Rest assured of our continuing prayers as you assume the duties of your new appointment.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. David Sutherland,
Moderator,
139th General Assembly,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Cc: Ms. Libby Davies, NDP Health Critic; Ms. Hedy Fry, Liberal Party Health Critic; Mr. André Bellavance, Bloc Quebecois, Health Critic; Ms. Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party.

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp