March 26, 2020

Hon. Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K9

Hon. Anita Anand, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
11 Laurier St, Phase III, Place du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0S5

Ministers:

We are writing to you regarding access to medical cannabis, an issue important to hundreds of thousands of patients across Canada. As governments across the country respond to COVID-19 and grapple with determining what services are essential, we are asking that activities supporting the supply chain for medical cannabis be deemed an essential service at the federal level.

Medical cannabis is currently supplied directly to patients through the mail from licensed producers. The preservation of these mail services is essential for the health of these patients. Elderly and immunocompromised patients are already facing challenges social distancing now that Canada Post has stopped delivering packages requiring signatures, including medical cannabis, to their homes. A further scaling back or services as a result of the COVID-19 will create new barriers to accessing treatment, forcing patients to the unregulated illicit market.

Quebec and Ontario have both declared the production and sale of cannabis an essential service. We are asking your government to declare the supply of medical cannabis to patients at the federal level an essential service so that appropriate mail delivery services remain in place to support Canadians with serious medical conditions.

Sincerely,

Nathan Mison  
Co-Chair  
National Cannabis Working Group

George Smitherman  
President & CEO  
Cannabis Council of Canada

John Carle  
Executive Director  
Alberta Cannabis Council

Michel Timperio  
Président  
Association québécoise de l’industrie du cannabis

cc: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs