

Office of the
Prime Minister

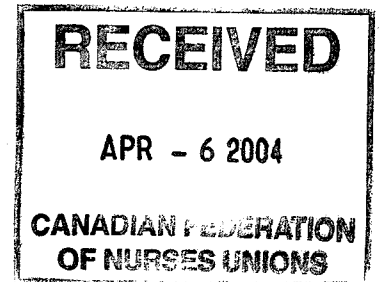


Cabinet du
Premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

April 2, 2004

Ms. Linda Silas
President
Canadian Federation of Nurses Union
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 8X7



Dear Ms. Silas:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Paul Martin, we would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of March 23, 2004.

Please be assured that your comments regarding the *Chaoulli* case currently before the Supreme Court of Canada have been carefully noted. The future of Canada's Health care system is indeed an important issue for all Canadians. The February 2004 Speech from the Throne re-confirms the Government's commitment to ensuring that every Canadian has timely access to quality care when needed, regardless of income.

As you are no doubt aware, on December 22, 2003, the Attorney General of Canada filed an objection to the intervention by the Honourable Senator Kirby and others in the *Chaoulli* litigation in order to clarify whether their intervention in these circumstances was appropriate from a legal perspective. On January 22, 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada granted the intervention of the other nine Senators on the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology that produced the "Kirby Report" on health care.

As your letter will be of interest to the Honourable Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of Health, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Minister responsible for Official Languages, as well as the Honourable Dr. Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, we have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to their respective office for their consideration.

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister.

Sincerely,

Lynne Carrière
Special Assistant - Correspondence

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