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David Swann, MD

M.L.A. CALGARY MOUNTAIN VIEW
LEADER, OFFICIAL OPPOSITION OF ALBERTA

Minister Gene Zwozdesky
#208 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

May 20, 2010

Dear Minister Zwozdesky,

I am writing on behalf of Koreen Anderson, President of the Alberta branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Mrs. Anderson contacted me and expressed her concerns with an exchange that happened between Ms. Pearl Calahasen and yourself in the Legislature on March 11, 2010.

In your exchange with Ms. Calahasen, regarding food regulations relating to the sale of home-baked goods, the very important job that Alberta's food inspectors perform was addressed in a negative light. The purpose of Ms. Calahasen's questions seemed to be to influence you, as Minister of Health and Wellness, to loosen regulations that have been put in place to ensure that Albertan consumers can be confident that any food that they purchase was prepared and transported in a safe and reliable manner. Alberta's public health inspectors are charged with this important task. Mrs. Anderson was uncomfortable with the laughing characterization of Alberta's food safety inspectors as 'pie police'. Remarks like this are neither constructive nor an accurate characterization of the important job that Alberta's food safety inspectors perform.

I would strongly urge you to consult with Mrs. Anderson and other members of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors before you undertake any changes regarding food safety regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Swann", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. David Swann
Leader of Alberta's Official Opposition