



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Carolyn Bennett MD

Member of Parliament / députée – St. Paul's

October 29, 2012

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed production of *No Accident*, a documentary film on the topic of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). In his film, executive producer Darrel Rowledge plans to present, expertly and scientifically, how the emergence of CWD on game farms in North America should be a major public health concern in Canada.

As a physician, Member of Parliament and former Minister of State (Public Health), it is my opinion that awareness is a crucial factor in managing public health issues. The spread of CWD - essentially "mad cow disease" (BSE) in deer and elk - is an issue Canadians should be aware of. It is a disease that has been introduced by game-ranching and poses a serious threat to domesticated game, wildlife and potentially human populations. Awareness, risk communication and prevention are a vital part of public health policy in the case of agriculturally-borne diseases, as was the case with BSE in the 1990s.

Mr. Rowledge is an expert in the area of CWD. However, he is able to translate his knowledge in a way that it can be absorbed by non-experts. His film, based on extensive and credible scientific research, will certainly raise all-important awareness of this emerging, and very serious, issue for the public and policy-makers alike.

I am completely in support of this documentary and encouraged by the benefits raised awareness of CWD will bring to Canadians. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., M.P.
St Paul's