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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

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*Elizabeth May*

Member of Parliament / Députée  
Saanich—Gulf Islands / Saanich—Gulf Islands

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The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

June 23, 2020

**Re: Cystic Fibrosis patients' access to the drug Trikafta**

Dear Minister Hajdu,

I am writing today to follow up on a conversation we had in person a few weeks ago regarding Cystic Fibrosis patients and a life-saving drug by Vertex Pharmaceuticals called Trikafta.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a unique light on the experience of CF patients in Canada. Many Canadians are now taking the same precautionary measures that are a daily reality for CF patients. It is more important than ever to ensure we are strengthening our health care system and protecting those most at risk.

The new amendments to the Patented Medicines Regulations, which are expected to enter into force July 1, 2020, give the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) new tools to lower the price of patented medicines. While this action is an essential step in laying the foundation for national pharmacare, these new measures are having the unintended consequence of barring innovative medications from entering the Canadian market. With over 4,300 CF patients here in Canada, there is a clear need for the federal government to find a balance between lowering drug costs and supporting innovative therapies in Canada.



Trikafta has demonstrated a 63% reduction in lung exacerbations and an improvement of 14% in lung function. In addition, patients taking the drug reported a 20-point improvement of quality of life compared to a baseline report.

Unfortunately, eligibility requirements for Health Canada's Special Access Programme are extremely restrictive, and leave many CF patients falling through the cracks.

Vertex is currently in negotiations with the PMPRB, and I would be very grateful if you could support the negotiations in any way that you can. Medications like Vertex's Trikafta have the ability to drastically improve the lives of CF patients, and Canadians should have access to them here in Canada. I am attaching a document by Cystic Fibrosis Canada to this letter for supplemental information.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada

