

HE-C1-1

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

AUG 29 2012

| LEGISLATIVE SERVICES              |           |
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| COPY TO:                          | FOR:      |
| Chair                             | Committee |
| CAO                               |           |
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| Health Services                   |           |
| Human Services                    |           |
| Peel Living                       |           |

Mr. Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
The Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A  
Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

Regional Municipality of Peel  
Office of the Regional Chair

SEP 27 2012

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Kolb:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 13, 2012, concerning the regulation and inspection of water bottling plants. I regret the delay in responding.

In Canada, bottled water is considered a food product and is regulated under the *Food and Drugs Act* and its Regulations. Federal responsibility for these regulations is shared by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Health Canada is responsible for setting and updating the health and safety standards for microbial, chemical, and radiological contaminants and labelling related to health and nutrition. The CFIA is responsible for enforcing these standards and for setting and enforcing non-health and safety requirements which relate to packaging, labelling, and advertising, including administering relevant provisions under the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act* and its Regulations. As such, the inspection of water bottling plants falls under the responsibility of the CFIA, including public disclosure of the results of these inspections.

Currently, the Government of Canada's established requirements for bottled water are listed in the *Food and Drug Regulations*. The microbiological and labelling regulations are found in Division 12, limits for chemical contaminants are found in Division 15, and radiological requirements are found in the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. Pursuant to section B.12.002(a) of the Regulations, producers of spring water and mineral water must include on the principal display panel of the product's label a statement that identifies "the geographical location of the underground source from which it is obtained." In the case of water other than mineral water or spring water, bottlers are generally not allowed to claim that the water comes from a specific source. For instance, there is no requirement under the Regulations for bottled water drawn from a municipal water system to state this on the label.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ .../2  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

Canada

HE- CI - 2 -

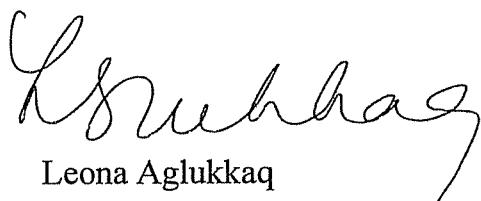
Our government is currently updating this section of the Regulations to reflect the latest science in order to continue to provide the safest and highest quality products possible. Since 2002, the Department and the CFIA have undertaken various consultations on proposed regulatory revisions related to the health, safety and labelling of bottled water. In April 2009, Health Canada and the CFIA co-published a document entitled *Summary of Consultations and Comments Received on Proposed Revisions to Food and Drug Regulations on Prepackaged Water and Ice*, which is available at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/securit/water-eau-eng.php>. This document summarizes stakeholder comments received as of November 2008, and includes a section on regulatory issues related to labelling. Based on the input received, the Department and the CFIA will work together on the necessary regulatory amendments.

While Health Canada and the CFIA are primarily responsible for regulating bottled water in Canada, some provinces and territories also have laws, regulations, guidelines and policies that apply to these products. Federal laws set the minimum standards, while the provinces and territories are free to establish additional requirements in their own jurisdictions. In addition, companies that are members of industry associations are required to follow the Codes of Practice established by these organizations, such as the Model Code of the Canadian Bottled Water Association, which can be found at <http://www.cbwa.ca>.

Since inspection issues fall under the purview of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, you have taken the correct course of action by writing to him. I trust that Minister Ritz will give your concerns every consideration.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

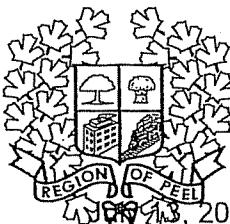


The signature is written in cursive black ink. It appears to begin with a large 'L' or 'G', followed by 'e', 'a', 'g', 'u', 'k', 'k', 'a', 'q'. Below the signature, the name 'Leona Aglukkaq' is printed in a smaller, standard font.

Leona Aglukkaq

c.c. The Honourable Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.

HE-CI-3



## Office of the Chair

Resolution No. 2012-888

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

Subject: Bottled Drinking Water

I am writing to advise that Peel Regional Council approved the following resolution at its meeting held on July 5, 2012:

"That the Regional Chair write to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Federal Minister of Health, and the Chief Food Safety Officer for Canada, on behalf of Regional Council, to request that the benefits of the current regulatory regime for municipal drinking water be extended to bottled water, specifically that:

- Water bottling plants be inspected a minimum of once every two years by Canadian Food Inspection Agency staff;
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency publically disclose the results of these inspections and the results of any bottled water samples taken by Canadian Food Inspection Agency staff;
- The current Canadian standards regarding bottled water be amended to require water bottling companies to make information regarding their water sources and product sampling available to the public;

And further, that the Medical Officer of Health for the Region of Peel be requested to include information and advice to residents regarding bottled water on the Regional website."

On behalf of Regional Council, I request that you give consideration to the above resolution. I look forward to your reply. Please quote the Region of Peel's resolution number in your reply.

Sincerely,

Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

EK:tr

c: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health  
Dr. David Mowat, Medical Officer of Health

The Regional Municipality of Peel