

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

MAY 26 2015

Ms. Rosemary Plummer
President
Hep C BC
20-1139 Yates Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 3N2

Dear Ms. Plummer:

I am pleased to respond to your letter concerning hepatitis C screening guidelines, which was forwarded to me by Mr. Murray Rankin, Member of Parliament for Victoria.

As you are aware, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends screening for individuals with risk behaviour and potential exposures to hepatitis C. The Agency is aware of calls to add one-time screening for specific birth cohorts, and has determined that further analysis is required before proposing changes to the current guidance. This additional analysis will include a review by the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care, an independent body of primary care and prevention experts. The Task Force's review is expected to be made public in spring 2016.

In the meantime, the Agency is working with the provinces and territories to increase awareness and promote screening among those at an increased risk for the hepatitis C virus.

The federal government is committed to continuing to work with provincial and territorial partners to address the burden of hepatitis C through the Hepatitis C Prevention, Support, and Research Program. The program funds community-based projects aimed at preventing the spread of viral hepatitis and improving the lives of those infected with the virus.

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I hope that this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rona Ambrose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

The Hon. Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P.

c.c. Mr. Murray Rankin, Q.C., M.P.
Victoria