

TELEPHONE/TÉLÉPHONE
(613) 731-9331

PO Box/C.P. 8650
Ottawa ON K1G 0G8

FAX/TÉLÉCOPIEUR
(613) 731-7314

1867 Alta Vista
Ottawa ON K1G 3Y6



**Canadian Medical Association
Association médicale canadienne**

January 22, 1996

Mr. Chris Brown
2-142 Osgoode St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6S4

Dear Mr. Brown:

In your letter of January 13, 1996, you make some erroneous statements which need to be corrected. At no time has the CMA encouraged the media or others to think of the concerns of those individuals with environmental sensitivities as synonymous with those of practitioners whose methods are unacceptable or not mainstream. We have not made any public statements on alternative therapies other than that the term "alternate" for alternative therapies covers a wide spectrum of activities, some of which are becoming more accepted into usual medical practice and others that are devoid of any evidence of therapeutic value to patients.

I am glad that you do accept that there are many physicians who are acutely aware of the problems of environmental sensitivities and have expertise in this area and are addressing the needs of patients with such sensitivities. I am sorry that you think that the prevailing impression is that organized medicine does not consider the health complaints of these consumers legitimate.

I am sure that you agree that confusing individuals with health problems with therapies used to address them is counter-productive and leads neither to a better understanding of complex problems nor of better care for individuals.

Yours sincerely,

Carole A. Guzman, M.D., FRCPC
Associate Secretary General

cc: John Krauser, Ontario Med Assoc
John Dwyer, CHRC
John Molot, CSEM