

Office of the
Prime Minister



Cabinet du
Premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

June 4, 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow
President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
Suite 300
18 Spadina Road
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

I would like to acknowledge receipt of a resolution of the Retired Teachers of Ontario regarding negotiations for a Canada-European Union economic partnership agreement.

Please be assured that the resolution has been carefully reviewed. As the matter you have raised falls within the responsibilities of the Honourable Edward Fast, Minister of International Trade, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to him. I am certain that the Minister will appreciate receiving this information.

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Bredeson".

M. Bredeson
Executive Correspondence Officer

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



June 22, 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow
President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
300-18 Spadina Road
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Canada-European Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). I appreciate the time you have taken to share your views on behalf of The Retired Teachers of Ontario.

Ontario's teachers and support staff are the backbone of our education system, and they are second to none. My colleagues and I recognize the vital role that teachers play in building an educated and competitive workforce, and the importance of cultivating a dynamic teaching profession.

With regard to CETA negotiations, at the Council of the Federation meeting, my fellow premiers and I emphasized the need to grow our economy by opening and deepening international trade relations with Europe and Asia. We believe that CETA has the potential to benefit all parties by creating substantial and reciprocal economic gains, more co-operation in a range of sectors, and an opportunity to address outstanding trade concerns. We also recognize the need for provinces and territories to be able to participate in Canada's international negotiations and forums that impact their respective jurisdictions.

As my colleague the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Innovation, would also be interested in your comments, I have shared a copy of your correspondence with him.

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Again, thank you for writing. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

c: The Honourable Brad Duguid



Montréal, le 19 juin 2012

Monsieur Jim Sparrow
Président
LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITÉS DE L'ONTARIO
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto (Ontario) M5R 2S7

Monsieur le Président,

Au nom du premier ministre, monsieur Jean Charest, nous accusons réception de la lettre que vous lui faisiez parvenir le 5 juin dernier, dans laquelle vous lui exprimez vos préoccupations et lui faites part de demandes relatives à l'éventuel Accord économique et commercial global entre le Canada et l'Union européenne.

Soyez assuré que nous avons bien pris connaissance de votre missive, et que celle-ci a eu droit à toute la considération requise de la part de notre cabinet. Nous avons transmis copie de votre envoi à monsieur Sam Hamad, ministre du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation, afin qu'il puisse y donner le suivi approprié.

Nous vous prions d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, nos salutations distinguées.

Julie Mac Murray
Attachée politique

c. c. M. Sam Hamad, ministre

Quebec [flag]
Government of Quebec
Premier's Office

Montreal, June 19, 2012

Jim Sparrow
President
RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

On behalf of the Premier, Jean Charest, we acknowledge receipt of the letter you sent us on June 5, in which you express your concerns and share your demands about the possible Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union.

Please be assured that we have indeed read your letter and that it has received all necessary consideration from our office. We have sent a copy of your letter to Sam Hamad, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Exportation, so that he can provide the appropriate follow-up.

Sincerely,

[Signed]
Julie MacMurray
Political attaché

cc: Sam Hamad, Minister



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

June 12, 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow, President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

On behalf of Premier Dexter, thank you for your letter of June 5, 2012, regarding the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

The Premier appreciates receiving correspondence as it keeps him current on matters of importance. Please be assured that your correspondence has been brought to the Premier's attention, and a response will be forthcoming.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cleo Alexander'.

Cleo Alexander
Correspondence Unit

Reference Number: 061212004

June 21, 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow
President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto ON M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

I appreciate the interest expressed by you and the Retired Teachers of Ontario in the ongoing Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations. This agreement has the potential to significantly impact the overall relationship between Canada and Europe.

The negotiations with the European Union mark the first time that provincial and territorial officials have actively participated as members of a Canadian negotiating delegation, sitting at the table and bringing the provincial perspective to positions impacting areas of provincial/territorial jurisdiction. I am pleased to confirm that New Brunswick officials have been active participants in these talks.

With respect to your concern about public input and transparency, I can assure you that our officials have been actively engaged in ongoing consultations with our private and public sector stakeholders beginning in December of 2009, and that New Brunswick's positions in these negotiations have been informed by these consultations.

New Brunswick officials have engaged with interest groups ranging from businesses and private sector associations to unions and professional associations, as well as with civil society organizations. In addition, extensive consultations have been carried out in-house across a wide range of government entities to assess the potential impact of an agreement on these entities and their stakeholders. The Government of New Brunswick is committed to consulting as extensively as possible to ensure that any agreement reached meets the needs of our citizens.

You can rest assured that the Government of New Brunswick has been actively engaged in these talks, ensuring that New Brunswick's positions are taken into consideration and that any commitments undertaken by Canada capture our domestic interests and sensitivities. In the end, New Brunswick will only accept a deal that is in the best interest of New Brunswickers.

Sincerely,



Honourable David Alward
Premier





Office of The Premier
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

June 20, 2012

Jim Sparrow
President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

On behalf of The Honourable Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba, I would like to thank you for your recent letter regarding the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement.

We have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade, for his consideration and response.

Once again, thank you for writing to Premier Selinger.

Sincerely,

Alissa Brandt
Director of the
Premier's Secretariat



June 20, 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow, President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement negotiations.

I have provided a copy of your letter to the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning, the Ministry responsible for Trade, to ensure that they are aware of your position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Ghiz".

Robert Ghiz
Premier of Prince Edward Island

cc: Sandy Stewart, Secretary of Economic, Trade, Policy and Strategy



Office of the Premier
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

June 20, 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow, President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto, ON, M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow,

RE: LETTER OF JUNE 5, 2012

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2012. I appreciate your taking the time to write to share your views. I also want to assure you that Yukon government is working to ensure that any trade agreement signed with the European Union will be in the Yukon's best interests.

The aim of a Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement with the EU would be to broaden and deepen Canada's trading relationship with our second largest trade and investment partner, securing preferential access for Canadian businesses to the wealthiest single market in the world.

In your letter you request assurances that CETA will respect the Canadian Constitution and not negatively impact:

- Education
- Generic Drugs
- Principles of the Canada Health Act
- Pensions
- Public Water Services

Canada's international trade agreements are structured to maintain our authority to establish our public sector services according to domestic policy decisions. In all cases, foreign companies are always subject to Canadian laws and regulations.

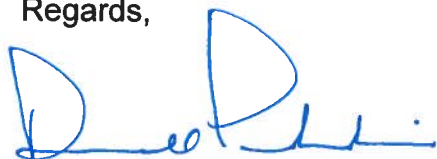
The Government of Canada has always preserved the ability of Canadian authorities at all levels to regulate health care, public education and social services based on Canadian objectives and priorities in all its trade agreements. In the Comprehensive Economic and



Trade Agreement negotiations, Canada will continue to preserve the right of governments to provide water services to Canadians.

The Yukon government has a responsibility to Yukoners to ensure that the best interests of Yukon are served. Yukon realizes that we have unique interests within Canada and we are working to protect these. I can assure you that Yukon's interests are being brought to the table.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Pasloski', with a stylized, cursive script.

Premier Darrell Pasloski



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

July 9, 2012

Jim Sparrow
President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
300 - 18 Spadina Road
TORONTO ON M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2012, that advised of a motion passed by The Retired Teachers of Ontario related to the current negotiations between Canada and the European Union (EU) on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

As you may know, Saskatchewan's economy is one of the most trade-oriented in Canada. Our current and future economic prosperity relies on continuing access to foreign markets for our products. Indeed, one of our key goals is generating prosperity for our citizens, businesses and communities by opening markets through international trade negotiations, like those underway on the CETA. A successful CETA negotiation is particularly important to our agriculture producers and exporters who currently face significant barriers to entering the EU market.

We cannot expect to achieve positive results for our producers and exporters without having to consider how EU businesses can compete fairly in the Saskatchewan goods, commercial services and government procurement markets. The CETA is, in fact, intended to show that there is great potential for increasing employment on both sides of the Atlantic.

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For our own interests, providing EU businesses access to procurement will not reduce the control that provincial and municipal governments have over how money is spent. Furthermore, it is important that procurement is done under a fair and open process to ensure public money is spent efficiently.

The federal government has indicated that the CETA, like all Canada's trade agreements to date, will exclude public services such as health, public education and social services. The Government of Saskatchewan will be vigilant in ensuring the federal government keeps that commitment.

Specifically on water, the federal government has stated very clearly that in the CETA negotiations, Canada will continue to preserve the right of governments, including municipal, regional or provincial governments, to provide water services, such as the delivery of drinking water. The Government of Saskatchewan will be vigilant in ensuring that the federal government does not stray from that commitment.

I am sure you will appreciate that I must take into account the position of the Canadian government that releasing details of the draft CETA text, including provincial components, before the negotiations are concluded could compromise Canada's negotiating position and reduce the benefits of the final agreement for Canadians.

That being said, I can assure you that the Government of Saskatchewan is working closely with the federal government in the CETA negotiations to ensure that our interests are strongly represented.

Saskatchewan will not agree to any deal that does not benefit our producers and exporters and reflect the public interests of our citizens, businesses, taxpayers and communities.

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Jim Sparrow
Page 3
July 9, 2012

I appreciate the opportunity to address the importance that Saskatchewan places in the CETA negotiations and our strong interest in achieving an agreement that benefits the citizens of our province, and Canada as a whole.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Brad Wall
Premier

cc Honourable Tim McMillan
Minister Responsible for Trade

Honourable Bill Boyd
Minister of the Economy





**MINISTER OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
TRAINING AND TRADE**

Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

JAN 28 2012

Mr. Jim Sparrow
President
The Retired Teachers of Ontario
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto ON M5R 2S7

Dear Mr. Sparrow:

I am writing in response to your letter dated June 5, 2012 to the Honourable Greg Selinger, in which you have raised concerns about the negotiations toward a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union. Manitoba has joined other provinces and territories under the Council of the Federation in supporting negotiations toward a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union.

The Government of Manitoba has and will always maintain a strong defence of the Canadian constitution and our rights as a province. As such, we monitor closely the implications of any trade negotiations on areas of provincial jurisdiction and have been actively involved in negotiations in this regard. Manitoba recognizes the concerns identified in your letter and has placed a priority on protecting and upholding our public services such as education, health and water services throughout the course of our participation in the proposed CETA.

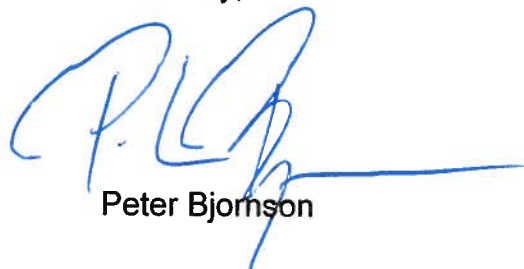
The area of "generic drugs" and pharmaceutical patents is under federal jurisdiction, but is an area of vital concern to the Government of Manitoba. We have flagged to the federal government our concern regarding any changes in this area that would upset the carefully crafted balance in Canada's existing patent protection regime, between providing sufficient patent protection to encourage innovation and providing effective room for production by generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to ensure pharmaceutical products are available to Canadians at a reasonable cost.

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As with many types of negotiations - be they labour, business or government - the trade negotiation process is not best facilitated in the public domain. The CETA is no different in this respect. However, the final approval and ratification of any CETA will be conducted openly by federal and provincial governments. To ensure that these negotiations properly respect democratic decision making in Canada, there are a number of avenues available for consultation. In Manitoba, we continue to engage with all interested stakeholders to ensure that our decisions are well-informed.

I hope you find these comments helpful in addressing your concerns regarding this agreement. Thank you again for taking the time to provide us with your views on this issue.

Sincerely,



Peter Bjornson

c. The Honourable Greg Selinger