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April 27, 2010

Dr. Samuel Godefroy
Director General, Bureau of Microbial Hazards
Health Canada
251 Sir F. G. Banting Driveway
P. L. 2203G3, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, ON K1A 0L2

Re: Consultation on proposed revisions to the policy on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods

Dear Dr. Godefroy,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed revisions to the policy on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods.

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) endorses a broad approach to supporting health that addresses factors both within and outside the health sector. Access to a high-quality, affordable source of food is an important determinant of health. CNA believes that addressing the contamination of food and other food-related health hazards to improve the safety of Canada's food supply will improve the overall health of Canadians, reduce their need for health care and increase productivity.

Furthermore, CNA believes that nurses are integral to addressing determinants of health, such as food safety, through their individual nursing practice, their collaboration with those inside and outside the health sector, and their participation in promoting healthy public policy.

For these reasons, CNA is pleased that Health Canada has taken the step of proposing revisions to the policy on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. We particularly support Health Canada's intent to develop educational materials for consumers and others involved in food handling and preparation. CNA endorses a collaborative approach among individuals working in diverse disciplines and sectors to achieve coherent policies and programs to deliver services that address determinants of health. We therefore support your intent to work together with provincial/territorial and municipal governments. We encourage you to reach out to registered nurses (RNs) involved in caring for individuals vulnerable to food-borne listeriosis – and we offer to assist Health Canada in making RNs aware of the revised policy.

Overall, Canada's registered nurses support the proposed revisions and view the revisions as a critical mechanism for protecting people from food-borne illnesses. I urge you to proceed with issuing this policy to the food processing industry and food safety regulators.

Thank you for your important work in supporting and protecting the health of Canadians.

Sincerely,

Rachel Bard, RN, M.A.Ed.
Chief Executive Officer