



March 11, 2014

Ms Kathryn McDade, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ms Anne Lamar, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Canada
Health Products and Food Branch
250 Lanark Avenue
Graham Spry Building, A.L. 2007A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Ms McDade and Ms Lamar,

Re: Support for Dr. Godefroy – Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Chairperson

Anaphylaxis Canada is pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Samuel Godefroy as the Canadian candidate for the position of Chairperson of the CAC.

As a registered charity Anaphylaxis Canada's mission is to inform support, educate, and advocate for the needs of individuals at risk for anaphylaxis and their families. More than 2.5 million Canadians are now affected by at least one food allergy and avoidance of their allergens is key to staying safe. Through our free Allergy Information Service, we reach approximately 13,000 members, keeping them abreast of important information related to food allergies. Food labelling updates are among the most popular aspects of the information we provide.

As you are aware, it took more than a decade of advocacy work, and continual dialogue with Health Canada, before Canada's new food allergen labelling regulations came into force on August 4, 2012. As a consumer group, we greatly appreciated Dr. Godefroy's role in getting the regulations passed into law. While representing Health Canada, Dr. Godefroy was transparent in his efforts to balance the requirements of government, while understanding both the perspective of the food industry and consumers. He did this with sound knowledge of the scientific evidence regarding food allergens and Health Canada's regulatory process and by engaging stakeholders in consultation meetings. The passing of the enhanced food regulations has helped to improve the safety and quality of life for millions of Canadians.

On several occasions, we invited Dr. Godefroy to speak at Anaphylaxis Canada's events and his talks on food labelling were very well received by our delegates. He is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about his topic and genuinely interested in the challenges that consumers face when reading ingredient labels. He has a true passion for his work, and compassion for Canadian consumers.

We are confident that Dr. Godefroy would excel in this leadership role if selected as the Chairperson of the CAC. We know from our discussions with stakeholders in Canada and other countries that Dr. Godefroy is held in high regard, known for his professionalism and breadth of knowledge about food safety. With the facility to speak in multiple languages, and his collaborative approach with stakeholders who span various cultures and countries, Dr. Godefroy has the adeptness required to bring diverse groups together, keeping everyone focused on the common goal: the protection and safety of consumers.

Codex Alimentarius "is about safe, good food for everyone – everywhere." Codex member countries, and their consumers, would benefit greatly from the leadership of Dr. Godefroy. We hope to hear positive news about Health Canada's nomination of Dr. Godefroy.

Yours truly,



Laurie Harada
Executive Director (*and mother of a son with multiple food allergies*)