



Canadian Food Inspection Agency Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

President's Office
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0Y9

November 5, 2012

Dr. Bernard Vallat
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12 rue de Prony
75017 Paris
France

Dear Dr. Vallat

This letter has reference to the report of the Independent Evaluation of the OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious Salmon Anaemia in Prince Edward Island, Canada which I received from the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE Central Bureau during my attendance at the meeting of the OIE Council in Paris, October 2 – 4, 2012.

As indicated in my subsequent email to Dr. Miyagashima, the report was shared following my return to Canada with the Dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College of the University of Prince Edward Island in which the OIE Reference Laboratory resides for their review and internal assessment of the recommendations.

Let me first express my personal thanks to the review team of subject matter experts comprised of Dr. Steven Edwards, Dr. Knut Falk and Dr. David Stone for their assessment and recommendations, to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission for their review and endorsement of the findings and to the OIE Central Bureau for their support of the mission.

As noted in my initial letter of April 2012 on this matter, Canada is appreciative of the significant investment and effort on the part of the OIE over the past several years to bring increased rigour to the approval and maintenance of status for recognition of OIE Reference Laboratories to ensure the highest standards of diagnostic integrity and services to members.

At the same time I wish to acknowledge the professionalism and high level of engagement demonstrated by the Atlantic Veterinary College in seeking to determine and address the scientific basis for the reporting of disparate and non –repeatable results and their respect for the OIE process and requirements. I believe the faculty,

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academic and aquatic health programs of the Atlantic Veterinary College are among the best in the world. I am confident that they will continue to be a valued resource for advancing international science based standards and contributing to ad hoc working groups established by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in areas of mutual interest.

As the Delegate of Canada to the OIE, I confirm acceptance of the report's recommendation concerning suspension of the infectious salmon anaemia reference laboratory status and support the OIE Central Bureau taking the necessary steps to place the reference laboratory status at the Atlantic Veterinary College in abeyance.

The report makes further recommendations which will also be actively considered. While it has not yet been determined whether a new application might be considered in the future for an OIE Reference Laboratory for infectious salmon anaemia, it is the intent of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to support the efforts of the Atlantic Veterinary College to obtain ISO laboratory quality standards accreditation for their diagnostic laboratory.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Brian Evans
Government of Canada Delegate to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

cc. Dr. Don Reynolds, Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College
Dr. Martine Dubuc, Vice President Science Branch, CFIA
Dr. Ian Alexander, Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate, CFIA