His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor of the City of Hamilton  
Hamilton City Centre  
230-77 James Street North  
Hamilton, Ontario  L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 15, 2007, concerning the recommendations of the Trans Fat Task Force (TFTF).

I agree that there is a significant and growing body of evidence linking trans fats to coronary heart disease. As such, Health Canada has pursued a multi-faceted approach to reduce trans fat in Canadian foods, including labelling, monitoring of the food supply and consumer awareness.

Mandatory nutrition labelling and the TFTF recommendations have already had a significant impact on the direction industry is taking on this very important issue. Studies conducted over the last three years have shown that most major food manufacturers have switched from partially hydrogenated oils to non-hydrogenated oils in the preparation of food products.

In June 2007, Health Canada adopted the TFTF’s proposal to limit the fat content of vegetable oils and soft, spreadable margarines to two percent of the total fat content, and to limit the trans fat content for all other foods to five percent, including ingredients sold to restaurants. The food industry has been given two years to reduce trans fats in Canadian foods to the levels recommended by the TFTF and Health Canada will be monitoring the industry’s progress over this time frame. If significant progress is not made to achieve the two and five percent limits, the Department will develop regulations to ensure that the levels are met.

Health Canada will monitor the impact of these initiatives on all Canadians, including vulnerable groups with lower incomes, as well as the response of food manufacturers.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Clement

Canada