As Minister of Health, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Niagara Falls and to the 2016 Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association Convention. This event provides an excellent opportunity to advance our collective knowledge on new and emerging trends in the veterinary field. Your commitment to excellence in veterinary medicine helps not only to ensure the health and well-being of both companion and livestock animals in Canada but also contributes to public health and the safety of the food supply.

The complications of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are quickly becoming a global health concern. The Government of Canada is taking concrete action to address the inappropriate use of antimicrobial drugs and to develop long-term solutions to combat bacterial infections.

Health Canada recently proposed several changes to the Food and Drug Regulations that would create stricter rules governing the importation, sale and use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals. As well, this new regime will require greater veterinary oversight of medically important antimicrobial drugs. I would like to acknowledge the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association's work on developing a pan-Canadian framework of professional practices that will complement Health Canada's efforts to mitigate the risks of AMR.

There is no doubt that effectively managing AMR requires collaboration amongst a number of parties. The Government of Canada continues to work with the provinces and territories, as well as partners and stakeholders, including the veterinary community, to protect Canadians against the risks related to AMR.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you all the best for a successful and rewarding convention. I hope the next few days are engaging and informative for all of you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Honourable Jane Philpott