As Minister of Health, I would like to welcome you to Charlottetown and this year's Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association Convention (CVMA). As the leading convention on veterinary medicine in Canada, this event provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the many innovative developments in the veterinary field, and to look to the road ahead.

As you are all well aware, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious global public health issue. An increasing number of drugs are no longer effective at treating infections because of it. This is putting both human and animal health at risk. We all have a role to play when it comes to promoting the responsible use of antimicrobial drugs.

I want to commend the CVMA for the work you are doing to tackle AMR. Your recent work on updating guidelines for the prudent use of veterinary antimicrobial medications and developing a national veterinary prescription-based antimicrobial use surveillance program are examples of our shared commitment to reducing the burden of AMR.

The Government of Canada is also taking action at home and abroad on AMR through the Federal Framework and Action Plan on AMR. A significant example of this action is the recent publication of new rules for veterinary antimicrobial drugs. These changes will help better protect Canadians against AMR. They include restricting personal importation of certain drugs for food-producing animals, and ensuring the quality and appropriate oversight of active pharmaceutical ingredients that are imported for veterinary use.

Health Canada also recently initiated a consultation on the Canada.ca website that would require all medically important antimicrobial drugs for veterinary use to be sold with a prescription.

The action that the CVMA is taking shows that you understand the complex challenges of AMR. The Government of Canada looks forward to continuing to work with our partners, such as the CVMA, to find innovative solutions to this global health problem.
On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you all the best for a successful and rewarding convention. I hope you all find the next few days interesting and informative.

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.