

December 15, 2009

Cassie Doyle, Deputy Minister
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room B5-1
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Doyle:

On behalf of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and our members, I am writing to you to express our concern surrounding the ongoing global shortage of medical isotopes and the shutdown of the National Reactor Universal at Chalk River.

The Canadian Chamber supports the recent expert panel report's conclusion that Canada needs to keep producing isotopes for Canada and the world, a report that was commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources. While once a world leader in the production of medical isotopes, our global status has slipped. Canadian and global health care providers are counting on the Canadian government to take appropriate action to ensure the constant and stable supply of medical isotopes.

We stand behind Canada's nuclear medicine and research technology industry sectors that rely on a fully functioning nuclear reactor. This technology is used in 50,000 nuclear medicine procedures per day around the globe, including 5,000 per day in Canada.

The Canadian Chamber supports the federal government remaining committed to nuclear medicine and work in close collaboration with Canadian industries in the nuclear medicine and research technology sectors to ensure Canada can remain a global leader.

As we begin to emerge from the recession, now is the time to invest and support industries, especially in the R&D sector, and continue to build Canada's knowledge-based economy for the future.

Sincerely,



Shirley Ann George
Senior Vice-President, Policy

Robert Klager, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Natural Resources
Leon Benoit, Chair, House of Commons Natural Resources Committee
Richard Dicerni, Industry Canada
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