



The Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport of Canada
House of Commons
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January 30, 2017

Dear Minister Garneau:

I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with CAPE President, Dr. Jean Zigby, on December 23rd to discuss our organization's interest in the transportation policies of the Federal Government.

As an organization established and directly largely by physicians who understand the integral relationship between human health and the environment, we understand that our transportation systems have a profound impact upon the daily lives of Canadians. They affect air quality in our urban centres, the levels of physical activity among our citizens, the number of injuries and deaths on our roads, the amount of time that people spend with their families, and the level of access that citizens of varying ages, income, and abilities have to jobs, services, and recreational opportunities. Our transportation sector is also one of the most significant sources of greenhouse gases that are contributing to catastrophic levels of climate change.

We appreciate that much of the planning and development of Canada's transportation systems falls within the purview of Canadian municipalities and the provinces. We do believe, however, that there are many ways in which the federal government can affect the development of transportation systems and urban policy within Canadian municipalities. Unlike many other countries, Canada has no national urban policy, no active transportation policy, and no transit policy. In fact, Canada remains the only G8 nation without a national public transit policy.

We applaud your government for taking several important steps towards addressing some of these gaps in federal policy. We are encouraged, for example, by your government's announcement to strike a federal task force to improve cycling and pedestrian safety. We also strongly support your government's decision to establish a Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and invest \$25.3 billion in public transit to improve and expand public transit systems across the country.

We do feel, however, that much more could be done to encourage and support active modes of transportation, such as walking and cycling, and public transit. We believe, for example, that the federal government should establish a National Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Fund.

We believe that public transit needs sustainable long-term funding from all levels of government. We also believe that the federal government could play a stronger role to encourage land use and transportation planning policies across the country that support walking, cycling, and public transit.

We recognize that the public and local decision-makers do not always support the need to invest in active modes of transportation and public transit. We feel that we can play an important role in that regard. As an organization that speaks for physicians on environmental issues, we believe that we can be an effective voice on public policies that have an impact on human health. By bringing the health arguments to the table, we feel that we can help to shift the public's perception about public transit, cycling, and walking and help people to understand the many benefits that can accrue from an investment in these modes of transportation.

We look forward to working with you on these important issues in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kim Perrotta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kim" and the last name "Perrotta" clearly distinguishable.

Kim Perrotta, MHSc
Executive Director