



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

President

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Présidente

Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0Y9

HCC 023516

May 15, 2020

Mr. Yves Giroux
99 Bank Street, 9th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Giroux:

I am writing to you in response to your letter to Minister Hajdu dated April 24, 2020 regarding the submission of data related to the additional funding of \$20 million for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as announced by the Prime Minister on April 14, 2020. This response provides written justification for the necessary deferral of information related to the COVID-19 funding beyond the requested first reporting date of May 15, 2020.

My officials have been working diligently to secure the announced funding through the Treasury Board submission process and it is currently anticipated that this item will be considered at a meeting of Treasury Board Ministers after May 15, 2020. In discussion with Treasury Board officials, the CFIA has been advised that until such time that an official Treasury Board Letter of Decision has been received to indicate that this funding has been approved, it would be premature to report against the announced funding. I am therefore returning the reply form provided with an indication that information is not being provided for the May 15, 2020 report date.

Your request also indicated that information should be provided on "at least a weekly basis". This frequency of reporting would be extremely time consuming for the Agency and excessive given the low materiality of CFIA's COVID-19 spending on a weekly or monthly basis. I would therefore like to respectfully request that this information be provided to you within 30 days of the end of each quarter in the 2020-21 fiscal year with the first report to be provided by July 30, 2020.

I look forward to being able to comply with your request for information in the months ahead. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Siddika Mithani, Ph.D.
President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency