



CANADIAN NUCLEAR
ISOTOPE COUNCIL

November 26, 2019
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Right Hon. Justin Trudeau,

On behalf of the Canadian Nuclear Isotope Council, we would like to congratulate you and the Liberal Party of Canada on your recent electoral success. The Canadian people have entrusted you with a resounding mandate to advance economic opportunity and growth.

The CNIC is an independent organization consisting of representatives from various levels within the Canadian health sector, nuclear industry and research bodies, convened specifically to advocate for our country's role in the production of the world's isotope supply. The CNIC serves as a voice in safeguarding the continued availability of isotopes, ensuring our public policies are risk-informed and science-based, and support the highest levels of public health and safety.

For more than **60 years**, Canada has been a leader globally in the research, development and production of medical isotopes and radiopharmaceuticals. For more than six decades, Canadians have been at the forefront in fighting cancer and keeping our hospitals clean and safe.

Today, **more than 10,000 hospitals** around the world use medical isotopes for sterilization, diagnostic imaging and cancer treatment. The world has always counted on Canada, but the fragility of our efforts has threatened the critical supply of these materials before. As elected officials, policymakers should be acutely aware of the previous challenges Canadians and global citizens faced during an alarming shortage of the world's isotope supply.

Canada's nuclear isotope program pioneered a new era in cancer-fighting treatments and research and development using isotopes. Without a champion, however, Canada and its provinces risk ceding that leadership role. That should concern Canadians as no one wants to wake up in a world where patients don't have access to life-saving cancer treatments. That's why **63 per cent of Canadians support the development of a national strategy for isotopes** to ensure Canada remains at the forefront of this sector which is why we must can and must do more.

There are solutions and the CNIC was created to work with government in finding them. Leveraging existing infrastructure, creating redundancy in supply, and supporting Canada's isotope industry by developing policies and a strategy that aim to foster competitiveness, supports the promotion and development of isotopes both for export and use in fighting cancer. This will not only have a significant positive impact on human health across the globe, but will expand Canada's leadership role globally.

Such investments would exhibit a commitment to Canada's role as a leader in nuclear medicine, and dramatically bolster the country's capacity to innovate while delivering substantial economic and societal benefits to both Canadians and patients around the globe. With the size **of the global isotope market projected to grow to more than \$17.1 billion (US) by 2023**, Canada stands on the edge of an opportunity to bolster this industry.



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It is time for all levels of government to come together and work toward a common goal that helps fight cancer and saves lives. To achieve success, this pivotal sector must be appropriately profiled in the public discourse through our elected officials.

Enclosed with this letter is an information kit which provides an overview of the role of isotopes in Canada, as well as a copy of our report. The CNIC would like to thank you for your service, commitment and dedication in continuing to support Canadian innovation and life-saving technologies.

Throughout 2020, the CNIC will continue to promote public awareness about the use and benefits of medical/industrial isotopes and radiation technologies, and work with government stakeholders to ensure the public-policy landscape promotes innovation and supports the increased proliferation of medical and industrial isotope uses.

In closing, the CNIC would like to assure you that Canada's isotope industry stands ready to work with our government to deliver on its vision of growth, prosperity and a brighter future for generations to come. The CNIC would welcome the opportunity to meet with your office to discuss our industry or any of the policy recommendations presented in our report.

Sincerely,

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