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Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

March 9, 2006

Ms. Mary Jo Haddad
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1X8

Dear Ms. Haddad,

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) represents the interests of more than 3,000 community and public health practitioners across Ontario. The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health, and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario. The Breastfeeding Promotion Workgroup of the OPHA focuses on promotion, support and advocacy for breastfeeding.

It has come to the attention of the OPHA that the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) is hosting a workshop for health professionals entitled, "Food Allergies: Fundamentals to Frontiers", March 24, 2006. The workshop is being run through the HSC Specialty Food Shop. According to your brochure, the event is being "generously sponsored by Nestlé Nutrition".

Such sponsorships are prohibited by the World Health Organization (WHO) International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes ("The Code") and subsequent relevant Resolutions of the World Health Assembly. Even if Nestlé Nutrition has had no input into either the selection of speakers or the program content for the day, the perception is that your hospital has endorsed both the Nestlé organization and its products. Such endorsement has been shown to interfere with independent advice by health professionals who guide parents in decisions about infant feeding. We feel this presents a clear conflict of interest for the Hospital, especially because Nestlé claims that its formula reduces the incidence of allergies in infants and young children.

The Ontario Public Health Association respectfully requests that the Hospital for Sick Children terminate your sponsorship deal with Nestlé.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan
President, Ontario Public Health Association