

Letter 21: To M. Mark Holland - petition responses

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The original letter was written to Health Minister Mark Holland, and cc'd to the Foreign Affairs Minister, Shadow Ministers, the relevant Senators (You can find them here <https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/>) and to our Governor General using this address:

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon
Office of the Secretary to the Governor General
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0A1

Feel free to simplify and remove some of these recipients if you so choose.

First Name, Last Name

Address

Village/Town/City

Province Postal Code

Date

The Honorable Health Minister Mark Holland

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario,

Canada

K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Holland

This letter is addressed to you but it is also being sent to my elected Member of Parliament, MP Leslyn Lewis, my elected Senators, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, two Shadow Ministers as well as Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon. I am aware that many Canadians seek to understand the process through which our interests are being represented at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the World Health Organization in about five weeks. We also want to understand the risks and benefits of agreeing to the terms of the latest drafts of the documentation to be ratified at that meeting. Finally, we seek assurance that our elected officials, as well as civil servants at all levels, are working with all available information when making decisions upon which our wellbeing depends.

On Friday March 22, your colleague MP Leslyn Lewis (Haldimand Norfolk) filed **petition e-4623** which contained the signatures of 90,089 Canadians and this message:

We, the undersigned, Citizens and Residents of Canada, call upon the House of Commons in Parliament assembled to urgently implement Canada's expeditious withdrawal from the UN and all of its subsidiary organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO). www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4623

Had you noticed that this filing is NOT recorded in Hansard nor on the CPAC video of that day's sitting of the House? MP Lewis wanted to respect the 45 day requirement for the government's written response (i.e. YOUR response), to ensure that this would be available **before the WHO votes on adopting the International Health Regulation (IHR) amendments in May**. You will now have the task of responding to this petition in a manner that respects the wishes of the people and that demonstrates that you have a full understanding of what is at stake given the current state of the WHO.

In November 2023 you were faced with this request, submitted on behalf of nearly 20,000 Canadians.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to urgently allow Parliament the opportunity to debate and vote on the amendments to the IHRs that have already been adopted by the 75th World Health Assembly and to allow opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny of the proposed amendments currently being negotiated by WHO delegates. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4401>

At that time, you indicated: "Proposed amendments are still under negotiation and none have been finalized or agreed upon. While the outcomes of these efforts are not yet determined, Canada is ensuring that our sovereignty is maintained through any amendments to the IHR. Canada has full jurisdiction for any future domestic decisions about national restrictions or other measures related to health emergencies and pandemics. WHO Member States will continue to lead the process of negotiating amendments to the IHR (2005) and, as Canada engages in it, the federal government will ensure that Canadian priorities and values are upheld. It is expected that amendments to the IHR (2005) will be presented for consideration and potential adoption at the 77th World Health Assembly in May 2024."

And at that time (as also now 5 months later) the final text of the amendments to be adopted this May was not yet known. You must be aware that this past January, the WHO neglected to follow its own policy obliging it to provide the final drafts with four months advance notice to allow each country's delegations to study the implications of signing on.

Currently, all there is to work with are unofficially released working drafts of both documents. The draft IHR contains many unacceptable terms which are

summarized on the handout included with this letter. The working draft of the latest treaty indicates the degree to which the WHO is turning over the fruits of pathogen surveillance to pharmaceutical companies and the division of any revenues to follow among various parties. It appears that the contribution of the various national representatives is surface level, editorial only, and that there is no one raising questions as to the narrow-minded focus on vaccine production as a solution to world health issues.

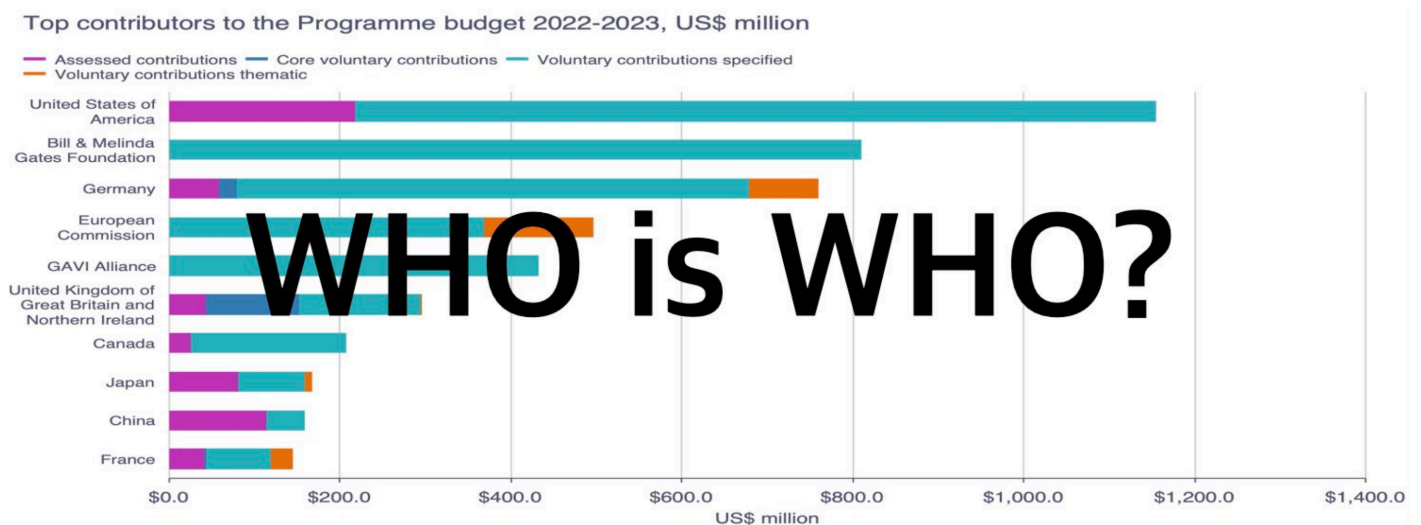
There are a plethora of unanswered questions that now need to be addressed before our Canadian representative is directed as to how to cast her vote at the 77th session of the World Health Assembly. I will limit myself to only a few, in the hopes of hearing your answers soon:

- We have been advised that Ms. Christine Harmston, Director General, Office of International Affairs for the Health Portfolio, Public Health Agency of Canada, is the person representing Canada at the WHO. Is that true? I assume in this role, she has been keeping you as our Minister of Health along with the Minister of Foreign Affairs apprised of the progress of the various WHO working groups who put the documents together. Is that true?
- What is the line of authority in this matter? In the absence of actual bills and votes re: the WHO documents from the House and Senate, does Ms. Harmston receive direction from your office, from the Prime Minister's Office, the Privy Council, or from Cabinet as the "arm" of our head of state, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon?
- Is it understood that the person representing Canada at the WHO represents the PEOPLE of Canada or the GOVERNMENT of Canada? Does this practice differ from country to country?
- What exactly did you mean when you said Canada is ENSURING that our sovereignty as well as our values and priorities are upheld? Perhaps at the time you wrote that you were not aware that the proposed International Health Regulations include requirements to adjust national laws and allocate human and financial resources differently and in keeping with priorities worked out at the level of the WHO. Short of withdrawing

entirely from the WHO, how are you directing Ms. Harmston to proceed to guarantee Canada's health sovereignty while keeping our WHO membership and signing on to these documents?

- Can Ms. Harmston point to sections in either of the two documents that guarantee, as you wrote, that *"Canada has full jurisdiction for any future domestic decisions about national restrictions or other measures related to health emergencies and pandemics."* When is the last time you consulted with international and health law experts to get their take? Did you think to speak with MP Leslyn Lewis to get her analysis on this matter? I take it you are aware of her explanations of the WHO documents under discussion? See: <https://leslynlewismp.ca/2024/01/17/the-who-pandemic-treaty/>.
- When people bring up "fact-checkers' findings" to tell you that to discuss the WHO pandemic treaty is to spread disinformation, do you understand how to identify the weaknesses in the counterarguments presented? (For example here - <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/apr/10/facebook-posts/false-claim-resurfaces-about-who-pandemic-treaty-a/>) Can you point to the tactics they use to sideline the main issues? Do you see how they can be "technically correct" but materially so incomplete? Can you see the disinformation tactic "information omission" at play? Do you "follow the money" to identify whose case fact-checkers are bound to support?
- Was our Canadian representative armed with sufficient evidence-based information to be a strong advocate for the many evidenced-based non-pharmaceutical measures for health improvement? Was she granted sufficient leeway in her role as the Canadian representative to make suggestions "outside of the box" or is she being guided not to "rock the boat" when involved in WHO committee work?
- Are you aware of the twin phenomena of "stake-holder capitalism" and "regulatory capture"? That means do you understand the possibility that when corporations donate to or pay for services provided by NGOs or regulators who are meant to oversee their activities, it is all too easy for

money to override reason. It is well known that the WHO is beholden to (i.e. 'in the pockets of') BigPharma as even the former Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan explained prior to the end of her tenure in 2017: *"WHO as an organization, only 30% of my budget is predictable funds. Other 70% I have to take a hat and go around the world, to beg for money. And when they give us the money, they are highly linked to their preferences they like. It may not be the priority of the WHO so if we do not solve this, you know, we are not going to be as great as we were"* (starting at the 1:20 mark in this documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJYUgN9BO2I&rco=1>). If you were overseeing any other ministry and discovered **to which extent** Big Oil, or Big Construction or Big Banks pump up the government agencies that regulate them to the extent seen in the following graphic, would you be shocked into making changes to the system?



Taken together, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donations to the WHO, along with those of GAVI (The Global Alliance for Vaccines, a Gates Foundation spin-off) dwarf the contributions of any countries other than those of the USA. Canada, you may note, is donating proportionally more per capita to WHO (but also to GAVI, not seen here) than other nations with a much larger population size. Why is that? Who decides our donation amount? If all of this is news to you, then you are likely a victim of a very serious disinformation tactic described either as "lying by omission" or "information omission" - a tactic used all too

often by BigPharma these days to keep people from being informed enough to take a more critical look at their operations.

As you consider the response to the second WHO-related petition, we wish to point you toward other actions underway in other countries. Simply regurgitating WHO talking points won't cut it. Prime Minister Lester Pearson broke new ground globally, with his implementation of a new UN Peacekeeper movement. Your government too, can break ground here by leading the exodus of nations from the WHO and aligning Canada with one of the alternative citizen-based, non-corporate aligned / directed / funded international health-related initiatives. There ARE alternatives to the current model at the WHO. We just need visionaries in our governments to actualize them.

Start by having Canada reach out to other nations to jointly insist that that the WHO must obey its own law. Given the lack of the 4 month notice period, as indicated in Article 55 of the IHR, the WHO, must NOT even consider the current amendments to the International Health Regulations at the 77th World Health Assembly, and must defer them to next year.

Contact the representatives from Australia, Estonia, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Slovakia, South Africa and the USA to see how they present the case for non-acceptance of the documents under discussion, or for withdrawal from the WHO entirely. The relevant links are posted here <https://worldcouncilforhealth.org/news/statements/reject-the-who/> on the website of the World Council for Health, which is a non-profit health initiative for the people, that is informed and funded by the people instead of by corporate donations.

Please follow all this up by contacting those US citizens who are behind "H.R. 79" which if accepted, would withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO). Try to understand their reasoning and be sure to consider it as you arm Ms. Harmston with directions as to how we as a country should move forward with regards to our WHO membership!

I sincerely hope that you will not only provide answers to my questions but also look closely the suggestions I just made as well as at the concerns re: the IHR amendments outlined on the attached handout.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

CC:

The Honorable Mark Holland, Minister of Health;

The Honorable Mélanie Jolie, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Dr. Stephen Ellis, Shadow Minister of Health;

Hon. Michael Chong, Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs

Member of Parliament, Leslyn Lewis

Senators representing this Province

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon