



**ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUES  
CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ**

**CATHOLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHAC CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE PASSAGE OF BILL C-47 BEFORE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION**

Ottawa — Last week's report about the successful cloning of a sheep by Scottish scientists highlights the need for swift passage of Bill C-47 (the Human Reproductive and Genetic Technologies Act).

More than three years have passed since the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies submitted its report to the government of Canada. That report strongly recommended two things: putting legal limits on the use of the technologies, and setting up a licensing and regulatory body to manage their use.

More than eight months have passed since Health Minister David Dingwall introduced Bill C-47 as a first step toward prohibiting the most problematic practices of the new reproductive and genetic technologies. The list of prohibited practices includes the cloning of human embryos. Public hearings on the legislation have yet to begin.

"The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) believes the prohibition of the 13 procedures outlined in the bill represents an important step in safeguarding respect for human life and dignity and the values of Canadians," said Mr. Raymond Lafond, Chairperson. The Association is concerned, however, that the legislation may not be passed before the next federal election, leaving the future of the bill uncertain.

In light of growing public awareness and concern about reproductive and genetic technologies, the CHAC believes this would be an opportune time for the government of Canada to reaffirm its commitment to Bill C-47. We are calling on the Health Minister to ensure that, after public hearings are held, every effort will be made to have the bill put before the Commons and the Senate for final approval before the federal election.

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