



**ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUES  
CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ**

**CATHOLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHAC WELCOMES GOVERNMENT ACTION ON REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

Ottawa—The federal government’s decision to outlaw commercial contracts for surrogate mothers and the buying and selling of human eggs and embryos is a step in the right direction, says the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC). “These practises pose serious threats to fundamental human values and disregard the dignity of human persons”, said Leo Steven, Chairperson of the CHAC. “They cannot be left to self-regulation.”

In welcoming Health Minister David Dingwall’s announcement that the federal government will introduce long-awaited legislation on new reproductive technologies, the CHAC cautioned that given the importance of these issues, criminal legislation may still be necessary. “The government’s intention not to amend the Criminal Code but to table separate legislation may prove insufficient to protect public health and foundational values,” Mr. Steven said. While it is not known what sanctions will be provided for under the new legislation, the Association encourages the government to take a tough stand in this regard, he added.

The CHAC will be monitoring the tabling of the legislation and hopes the government will allow for sufficient time for input before the new bill becomes law.

