

For your consideration, I am enclosing a copy of the brief which the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation made to the Eastman Commission in 1984 when I was president of that Society. I believe that this position would still be endorsed by at least 99% of the biomedical academic community in Canada. I sincerely hope that your committee will fully understand the implications of this legislation and will not be misled by the shortsighted and unimaginative response of the consumer movement and those preoccupied with control of health care expenditure no matter what the ultimate cost to society.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by)

S.M. MacLeod. MD. PhD. FRCPC
Dean

c.c. Committee Members and Party Leaders

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation. I have been occupied with the study of drugs and their potential and adverse effects since my graduation from medical school at UBC. My perspective is that of a university-based clinical pharmacologist and not the chief executive officer of a pharmaceutical company. It is in this latter capacity that I feel moved to indicate my support for the proposed legislation. I believe that the protection of intellectual property rights is of critical importance to the university community. We are being asked, on the one hand, to develop constructive relationships with industry as a means to increasing funding for biomedical research. We cannot, on the other hand, be asked to take such steps in an environment which is clouded by denial of intellectual property rights to those same companies who are being asked to contribute to our research endeavours. In the long run, I believe, denying the intellectual property rights and, in fact, the cost of health care generally will be better served by the development of improved and more cost-effective medications. Such advances can only be achieved through basic and clinical investigation initiated by the pharmaceutical industry alone or in concert with the academic community. We cannot realistically expect the pharmaceutical industry to invest in research and development if they are not to be allowed a fair return on their intellectual enterprise.