

February 19, 2021

Standing Committee on International Trade
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Canada

Re: Standing Committee on International Trade study of Bill C-18, *An Act to implement the Agreement on Trade Continuity between Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) represents Canada's research and development pharmaceutical industry. Our 45 member companies range from established organizations to fledgling startups, all of whom are dedicated to improving healthcare through the discovery and development of new medicines and vaccines. Our mission is to ensure that Canadians have access to the innovative treatments they need.

The purpose of this submission is to briefly express IMC's support for the successful negotiation of the *Canada-United Kingdom Trade Continuity Agreement (TCA)* and swift introduction of Bill C-18, *An Act to implement the Agreement on Trade Continuity between Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*. IMC was pleased to note that the TCA expressly states the parties' desire that the rights and obligations between them as provided for by the *Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* should continue following the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

IMC also notes that Canada and the United Kingdom agreed to an exchange of letters regarding the mutual recognition of good manufacturing practices for pharmaceutical products, which we believe is an integral component of ensuring a continuation of the obligations contained in CETA and its protocols. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital to avoid any unnecessary regulatory impediments to the flow of medicines and vaccines between Canada and the United Kingdom.

IMC extensively participated in the consultations with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada during CETA negotiations and the subsequent drafting of domestic legislation enacting the pharmaceutical provisions of CETA's Intellectual Property chapter (Chapter 20). IMC believes that, through CETA, the Canadian life science sector benefits from the improvements of Canada's intellectual property provisions that are now closer to the level of its major trading partners. Improving our intellectual property regime is one essential component of allowing Canada's bio-sciences sector to continue to grow and provide high-quality jobs to Canadians, attracting investment in research and development and finding the next generation of medicines.

It is our expectation that CETA's intellectual property and regulatory commitments will continue to be upheld in the new Canada-United Kingdom free trade agreement and that negotiations should not lead to less favourable outcomes for life sciences innovators than what was agreed to under CETA.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. IMC would be pleased to discuss this matter further or to address any questions that you may have.