

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Peter MacKay, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., député
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

OCT 17 2013

Ms. Margaret Parlor
President
National ME/FM Action Network
512 – 33 Banner Road
Ottawa ON K2H 8V7

Dear Ms. Parlor:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 3, 2013, congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and requesting to meet to discuss the recommendations you have submitted to the House of Commons Finance Committee.

Let me begin by saying what an honour it is to assume the responsibilities of this position. It is a great privilege to continue to serve Canadians in this new role, and I intend to work with great commitment to maintain and enhance the integrity and professionalism of Canada's system of justice.

As Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, one of my primary responsibilities is to provide legal advice to the federal government, its departments and agencies. As such, departmental officials offer advisory services on legal matters arising in the development of new policies, programs and services of federal departments and agencies, including on domestic and international human rights law relating to disability issues. Therefore, I trust you will appreciate that for purposes of your proposed interdepartmental task force, departmental officials would only be in a position to assume an advisory role.

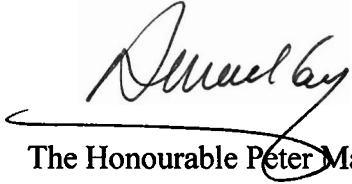
You may wish to consider raising your recommendations with the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada, whose department is the focal point within the Government of Canada for key partners working to promote the full inclusion and participation of Canadians with disabilities in all aspects of society and community life.

With respect to your request to meet, I regret that my schedule will not permit me to accept your kind invitation.

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I appreciate that your views on this matter were brought to my attention, and let me assure you that both personally, and as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, I am committed to equality for persons with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter MacKay", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

The Honourable Peter MacKay