



***The Lancet* statement calls on
candidates for top job at World Health Organization
to clarify commercial influence safeguards**

APRIL 27, 2017 (OTTAWA): Bill Jeffery, LLB, Executive Director of the Centre for Health Science and Law (CHSL) made the following statement on correspondence published tonight in the leading medical journal, *The Lancet*:

Next month, the World Health Organization's governing body will elect a new Director-General at a time when the organization is persistently ambivalent about letting businesses involved in disease risks and treatment become involved in decision-making, priority setting, and funding at the WHO.

Correspondence published on-line tonight sets-out concerns echoed by 61 health groups from around the world with a view to drawing-out some straight talk by the three candidates about the influence of food, alcohol, pharmaceutical, and other industries. The 194 Member States are scheduled to vote for the new leader during the World Health Assembly meeting at the United Nations' Geneva headquarters May 19-31, 2017.

- See the full text of the letter at: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31146-7.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)31146-7.pdf)
- See the complete list of 61 groups endorsing the letter at: <http://www.thelancet.com/cms/attachment/2092141778/2076397097/mmc1.pdf>
- The letter was accompanied by seven letters responding to a previous letter penned by World Health Organization scientists who joined members of the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in criticizing the College for accepting funding from infant formula companies in contravention of a resolution of its own governing body: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>

For further information, contact: Bill Jeffery, executive director of the Centre for Health Science and Law, editor in chief of *Food for Life Report*, and a co-author of editorial in *The Lancet* at 1-613-565-2140 or billjeffery@healthscienceandlaw.ca