



SEP 27 2011

Mr. Stephen Dixon
sjdixon1@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Dixon:

The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) has forwarded to me your email message of May 25, inquiring about federal government guidelines that provide direction on research and development in the field of synthetic biology.

There are a number of federal departments and agencies involved in the regulation of organisms, including Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Environment Canada is responsible for administering the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, which serves as a safeguard to ensure that all novel organisms are assessed for possible human health or environmental effects.

The micro-organisms the University of Calgary's iGEM Team will be working with may be subject to the *New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms)*. Information about this legislation can be found on the Department's website at www.ec.gc.ca/subsnouvelles-news/subs/default.asp?lang=En&n=E621534F-1.

Environment Canada officials have visited the iGEM team website. They advise me that the research you are doing is all contained and no micro-organisms have been released to the environment. Contained research with risk group level 1 micro-organisms up to 1000 litres in a closed system is exempt from the *New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms)*. However, the development of a kit to be used outside of a research facility may require a notification under the Regulations. Should that be the Team's intent, please advise the Department's Science and Risk Assessment Directorate by sending an email message to substances@ec.gc.ca.

I trust that my comments are of assistance, and wish you and the iGEM team success in the international competition.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

Canada

