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September 18, 2016

The Honourable Jane Philpott, M.P.
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Ms. Minister,

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is the largest national organization of women in Canada, with in excess of 83,000 members represented in every province and the military. The League has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership and is organized and pledged to serve all citizens of goodwill.

I am writing on behalf of members to urge the federal government to include home care as an insured health service in the Canada Health Act. The goal of home care is to help people stay at or return home while receiving needed treatment, rehabilitation or palliative care. Every year millions of Canadians receive some form of help in their home to cope with a long-term health condition, disability or ageing needs.

Presently the Canada Health Act recognizes home care as an "extended health service" but not as an "insured health service" to which the principles of the Act apply. Since this is the case provincial/territorial governments are not required to fund home care and access to these services varies significantly. The federal government, through its legislative role could amend the Canada Health Act to include home care as an insured service and facilitate national approaches and standards that must be satisfied by provincial /territorial health care insurance plans.

On behalf of members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, I urge you to consider this amendment to the Canada Health Act. I look forward to your favourable response to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President

c.c. The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada