



February 20, 2017

Mr. Lee Tappenden  
President and CEO  
Wal-Mart Canada Corporation  
1940 Argentia Road  
Mississauga, ON  
L4N 1P9

Dear Mr. Tappenden,

**Re: Seeking Leadership from Wal-Mart Canada on Preventing Toxics in Products**

We are writing to you today to urge Wal-Mart Canada Corporation to adopt the same approach to product safety as instituted by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in the United States.

You may be aware that in 2013, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. launched its policy on sustainable chemistry in consumables, the aim of which is to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals of concern from the personal care, paper, cleaning, pet and baby products it sells. This policy is reported to impact roughly 90,000 items made by 700 companies.

In April 2016, Walmart reported it had achieved a 95% reduction, by volume, in use of a list of “high-priority chemicals” from certain products sold in US locations. It also stated that use of a broader list of priority chemicals decreased by 45%.

Consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about the safety of the products they buy and use. This growing awareness of the presence of hazardous chemicals is influencing purchasing decisions.

Requesting manufacturers and suppliers to remove chemicals of concern from the products Walmart Canada sells would help to protect Canadian children from nine chemicals found in common products and furnishings in the home, and that collect in house dust.

Scientific evidence continues to be published showing the presence of chemicals of concern in house dust, a major source of chemical exposure to children because they crawl and play on the floor where dust settles, and often put their hands into their mouths.

One recent study,<sup>1</sup> widely reported in the media, echoed many earlier studies that have found indoor dust contains a variety of chemicals from consumer products and building materials linked to hazards for children's health. The 45 chemicals were from five chemical classes that have been measured in U.S. indoor dust in three or more datasets.

These commonly measured chemicals in the home are associated with health hazards such as cancer, endocrine/hormone disruption, and developmental and reproductive toxicity. Other studies provide ever-increasing evidence of hazard to health and development at ever lower exposure levels.

Children's developing brains and bodily systems are most vulnerable to toxic exposures during the prenatal and early life periods, and cumulative and additive effects are of concern throughout life.

The eight high-priority chemicals or chemical groups targeted by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are:

- Triclosan and Triclocarban (antibacterial agents and preservatives used in soaps, shampoos and toothpaste, and found in infant teething rings)
- formaldehyde (a byproduct of several cosmetic preservatives that ends up in nail polish, bubble bath and lotions, as well as an intentional preservative in furnishings, inks, furniture glues, and textiles)
- toluene (a solvent and paint thinner used in the making of dyes, plastics, perfume and antifreeze)
- diethyl phthalate (a fragrance ingredient, plasticizer and solvent used in cosmetics and nail products)
- dibutyl phthalate (a fragrance ingredient, plasticizer and solvent used in cosmetics and nail products)
- nonylphenol ethoxylates (detergents, emulsifiers, wetting agents and dispersing agents used in soap, detergents, degreasing agents and pest control products)
- butylparaben (preservative and fragrance ingredient in cosmetics and many personal care products such as sunscreens, moisturizers and toothpaste)
- propylparaben (preservative and fragrance ingredient in cosmetics and many personal care products such as sunscreens, lotions and shampoos (for children and adults), and found in infant teething rings)

We call on Wal-Mart Canada Corporation to take the lead among large Canadian retailers by launching a similar policy that would curtail the sale of products in your stores that contain the eight priority chemicals identified by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

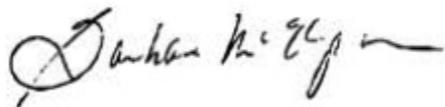
Companies that supply Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. have shown success in removing these chemicals from their products and Canadian suppliers should be asked to do the same.

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<sup>1</sup> Mitro SD, et al (2016) Consumer Product Chemicals in Indoor Dust: A Quantitative Meta-analysis of U.S. Studies. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, Article DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.6b02023.

A move such as this will be an important step towards protecting the health, development and well-being of children in Canada. It will help prevent products unacceptable to Wal-Mart stores in the US from being sold in Canada. We also hope that it will be followed by continued leadership in ensuring the safety of consumer products for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara McElgunn  
Health Policy Advisor

**Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC)**

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Mr. Bernard Louymaye, Chief Merchandizing Officer

***About the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC)***

*LDAC is the national voice for persons with learning disabilities and those who support them.*

*LDAC is dedicated to a level playing field for individuals with learning disabilities to enable them to function as citizens with equitable opportunities and to develop to their chosen potential.*

*LDAC accomplishes these goals through public awareness about the causes and impact of learning disabilities, advocacy, research, health, education and collaborative efforts.*

***About the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)***

*CELA is an Ontario-based legal aid clinic established in 1970 and providing direct representation and legal services to low income and vulnerable communities. CELA also undertakes law reform, public legal education and community development work that advances protection of the environment and human health.*