



June 17, 2008
File: 0430-01

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Today I heard the message "the rats are walking". Four men in hand-cycle wheelchairs rolled through my community with the mission of earning \$10 million for spinal cord injury research on a journey of 10,000 km across 10 provinces. They want to walk again! So do many citizens in the City of Kelowna!

I understand that research at McMaster University by the Neurorestorative Group has successfully regenerated nerves in the chronically injured spinal cords of rats. The funds these four athletes are raising are needed to continue this research through utilization of cells from the intestine. I urge you to consider allocating much needed dollars to this significant world research. There are so many other neurological diseases such as Parkinson disease, Alzheimer's and others that could also benefit from this research. For further information on Wheel to Walk, their website is www.wheeltowalkcanada.org.

It is such a thrill that Canada is again a leader in the world. I sincerely hope you support this request for these much needed dollars for this exciting research that could change the lives of so many individuals and their families.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Shepherd".

Sharon Shepherd
MAYOR

Enclosures

PC: Premier Gordon Campbell, Province of British Columbia
Minister Tony Clement, P.C., M.P., Health Canada
Minister George Abbott, Minister of Health, Province of British Columbia
Wheel to Walk Canada
Peter George, President, McMaster University
Kelowna City Councillors
Committee for People with Disabilities