



## Colin Carrie Tables Safety in Labelling Motion

**For immediate release.**

**Oshawa, ON – June 23, 2021.** – After months of preparation and consultation with stakeholders in the linguistic accessibility and visually impaired communities, Colin Carrie, the Member of Parliament for Oshawa, tabled M-97, a motion concerning product labelling and the expansion of accessible labelling practices.

According to a pair of respective 2017 reports released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada, Canada's seniors demographic is expected to grow by 68% by 2037, while the share of the Canadian population whose Mother Tongue is not one of Canada's two official languages is expected to reach 26%-31% of the total population.

In response to these challenges, Carrie's motion aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- Push Health Canada to incorporate the expansion of digital product labelling as part of its ongoing efforts to modernize product labelling – especially those that pose potential health risks to consumers – in order to ensure consumers are able to accurately read product labels, thus improving consumer safety.
- Permit companies to develop audio product label read-out technologies in an incremental process so those that are visually impaired can better understand crucial product information.

The CNIB Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting those living with visual impairment through innovative programming and advocacy, provided the following statement of support:

“All Canadians have a right to understand the ingredients of products they are buying. However, current labeling requirements are not accessible to everyone – including the 1.5 million

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Canadians who are blind or partially sighted, and many more who have a print disability or for whom English or French is not their first language.”

“The federal government needs to lead the way in ensuring all Canadians are protected by labelling requirements. In 2021, digital solutions exist which ensure more Canadians, including those who are blind or partially sighted, can make informed decisions about their purchases. As a non-profit, disability organization CNIB is non-partisan. CNIB will continue to support any motions that help to improve the quality of the lives of Canadians with sight loss.”

Though the motion will not be subject to debate or a vote at this time, Carrie is confident that by making the motion a matter of public record, “this framework for the modernization of product labelling that accounts for boundaries in linguistics and visual impairments can revolutionize the health, safety, and accessibility of consumers.”

“This is critically important for those in our First Nations, immigrant, elderly, and visually impaired communities, and I look forward to having the opportunity to bring this motion up for a debate and vote in the next session of Parliament.”

**For further information**

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