



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

MICHAEL COOPER

Member of Parliament
St. Albert—Edmonton

November 18, 2021

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
160 Elgin Street, 10th Floor
Address Locator 4809A
Ottawa ON K1A 0W9
Canada

Attention: Dr. Michael Strong, President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Dear Dr. Strong:

I was recently contacted by a Taiwanese Canadian scholar who brought to my attention that she has been forced to indicate “Taiwan, Province of China” when specifying her nationality in all applications to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The scholar has repeatedly raised her objection about having to inaccurately specify her nationality to the CIHR to no avail. To my surprise and disappointment, the CIHR has attempted to justify its refusal to allow the scholar to accurately specify her nationality on the basis that it adheres to the “one China policy”.

Without more, the CIHR is not adhering to Canada’s “one China policy”. The 1970 Joint Communiqué that sets out Canada’s “one China policy” merely “takes note” of the Chinese Communist regime’s contention that Taiwan is part of the People’s Republic of China. Canada has never accepted this contention; Taiwan’s territory has never been under the control of the People’s Republic of China.

Aside from misinterpreting Canada’s “one China policy”, the CIHR has insisted that it must adhere to country codes published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The CIHR’s contention in this regard is absurd. Several Canadian universities as well as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council had the same issue and corrected it.

I have learned that this issue has been brought to the attention of the CIHR on multiple occasions over the past several years, including by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada without resolve. The repeated refusal of the CIHR to address this matter, not to mention the CIHR’s insistence on

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contravening Canada's "one China policy" is unacceptable. In failing to address this issue, the CIHR appears to be complicit in the Chinese Communist regime's campaign of aggression and systematic effort to delegitimize sovereign and democratic Taiwan contrary to Canadian foreign policy.

I expect that the CIHR will forthwith address this matter in a satisfactory way and look forward to a prompt response on the corrective measures that will be taken.

Yours truly,



Michael Cooper, M.P.
St. Albert-Edmonton

Cc: The Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health

Cc: The Honorable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

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