Dear Nilanga Bandara,

Thank you for your letter, which was a great pleasure to receive. I decided to publish it for two reasons: first, because I was not aware that we had readers among secondary school students. I think this is good news and I wish to encourage you and your peers to continue to read scientific journals and engage in scholarly debates. Second, I believe that you have a valid point which is well argued and is worth considering. Having weighed the pros and cons of your suggestion, however, I have decided at this point not to alter our author guidelines. First and foremost, I believe that scientific publication should be as transparent and as accessible a process as possible. Adding layers of obligations when they are not absolutely necessary to protect research integrity and validity impedes knowledge dissemination. I agree with you that there is added value to including youth's opinions in the discussion of results from studies that concern them. We do indeed welcome participatory research projects in which youth and other groups actively participate in the study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation. However, I do not believe that publishing

non-participatory studies about young people is detrimental for them. The ethical guidelines for research from the Tri-Council¹ are quite clear. It is only in the case of primary studies conducted among Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit people that there exists a requirement for mandatory participation of study subjects in the governance of the research and dissemination of results. A long history of colonization and conduct of less than ethical research have been detrimental to these people and amply justify such a policy, which we rigorously implement at CJPH.

Louise Potvin, PhD, Editor-in-Chief

University of Montreal

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REFERENCE

1. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanity Research Council of Canada. *Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*. Government of Canada, 2014.