September 4, 2012

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

RE: Ingestion of magnets by children

Dear Ms. Aglukkaq,

The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology would like to add our support to the recent decision of Health Canada to review the safety of Buckyballs, Buckycubes and similar products containing high-powered magnets.

Ingestion of multiple high-powered magnets is clearly associated with significant gastrointestinal complications including intestinal obstruction, ulceration and perforation. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission is taking steps to limit children’s access to these products following multiple reports of serious injuries in children within the U.S.A. Similar injuries have been seen and documented in Canadian children. We hope that Health Canada will be able to implement measures to improve the awareness of the hazards associated with these products and decrease their availability to Canadian children.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Sadowski, MD
President, CAG

Rob Enns, MD
V.P. Clinical Affairs, CAG

Angela Noble, MD
Lead, Pediatric Committee, CAG