

February 10, 2004

Mr. Follett -

Welcome to Winnipeg! Although you're here a very short time, I hope you enjoy your visit. The Fort Garry is a fine hotel and will no doubt serve your needs.

I wanted to provide you with a copy of the agenda I've worked out, as well as give you a bit of a heads up about the media.

The agenda provides more time than you'll need for a tour of mechanical and support spaces, which we'll start with, as well as for a visit to the actual Level 4 space, which we've scheduled for after lunch as this is best for the program. We've provided for a mid-morning coffee break, which will also be a chance for staff to have books signed, if that's all right with you. A handful of people have already expressed some interest.

There will be no problem with getting you on your way to the airport with plenty of time to catch your 3:30 pm flight. If you'd like to bring your bags with you to the lab, we can leave them with security (where they'll be safe, of course) and you can go directly to the airport when we're done. It's only about 10 minutes from here.

As to media, there seems to be significant interest although I only have a couple print outlets confirmed at this point (mid-day Tuesday), so it's difficult to judge. We've planned to let them take photos/video while you try on a biosafety suit, which will give you the real experience of what it's like to wear one. We're doing this in a small (currently non-operational) Level 3 lab that has air hoses hooked up to simulate Level 4. Its construction is very similar to a Level 4, the real differences are in entry and exit. Depending on how many media there are we may move to a boardroom for more comfort while they ask a few questions, if that's OK. We won't let it go on too long.

We've arranged for lunch and invited the people that will be assisting you throughout the visit to join us. After lunch, we'll view the Health Canada Level 4 with the Senior Technician from the Health Canada program and possibly the head scientist from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Level 4.

Dr. Stefan Wagener will be accompanying you through the day. He is the Chief Administrative Officer and Scientific Director of Biosafety and Environment for our building. Basically, he's in charge of the operation of the facility, many of the administrative services provided to our two occupying government departments, as well as the all important biosafety and biosecurity.

I hope that these plans are alright with you and will meet your needs. If you have any concerns or if there's anything that I can do for you, you can reach me any time on my cell phone - 792-2023 (local area code 204). I look forward to meeting you.



Kelly Keith