

ARE NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS UNDER ATTACK?

Canadians' Risk Continued Loss of access to Natural Health Products. Action is Required Now.

The NHPPA's analysis of government legislation was the catalyst in Canada's national rebellion for health freedom and constitutional rights.

Since the introduction, during 2008, of sister Bills C-51 and C-52, Shawn Buckley and the NHPPA have produced the discussions which moved our nation to observe and understand the meaning of legislation which might otherwise have passed without citizen and industry opposition.

Our views were considered radical then, but are now acknowledged and accepted as expert critiques from the grass roots to Senate.

We, once again, risk losing our right to access natural health products and practices. We need your help!



nhppa.org

NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



Economics: ROI

The greatest crisis facing Canadians in our health care system is the growing tension between constantly rising costs and declining outcomes. When Canadians use NHPs we ease the burden on the health care system, which deserves to be recognized by our Members of Parliament. Dollar for dollar, measure against measure – benefits, adverse effects, compliance – NHPs deliver a better return on investment than drugs. The widest possible use of NHPs should be formally promoted.

Unfair Tax Policy

Why are health-conscious Canadians being punished?

When governments want to reduce a behaviour they make it costly by taxing it. Currently our federal government is using taxation to encourage use of prescription drugs (exempt from tax) and to discourage us from taking natural supplements or visiting a natural health practitioner (both subject to taxes). We don't pay to see medical doctors, but we pay to see natural health practitioners. Prescription drugs paid for by medical plans are not taxable benefits, but most supplements and treatment devices are. This is poor policy for several reasons.

Most people want to prevent illness rather than treat symptoms.

Despite some benefits, drugs are almost always more risky than NHPs. Encouraging risky treatments is unsettling behaviour on the part of a government.

Canadians should have the right to choose how we are going to treat ourselves. Instead, government policy chooses for us, especially the poor, even in cases where natural remedies would be more effective.

We should be encouraging Canadians to live a healthy lifestyle and to be proactive with their health. Current policy discourages this.



Natural health products and treatments should be on a level playing field with prescription drugs and allopathic treatments, because it makes sense to reduce risk and potentially have more effective outcomes.

REGULATIONS

The Effects of Current NHP Regulations

There is no question that the current Natural Health Product Regulations:

- Caused many NHPs to disappear;
- Caused many NHPs to become less effective by forcing manufacturers to reduce the amount of therapeutic ingredients;
- Stifled innovation of novel multi-ingredient products;
- Caused many small- and medium-sized high-quality firms to close, as they could not afford the costs of compliance;
- Restricted choice by causing mainly premium US and European companies to stop selling into Canada;
- Restricted access by driving up the price of NHPs, meaning that persons with low income cannot access them;
- Removed and restricted longstanding practices and treatments of alternative and traditional practitioners

Predicted Effects of Proposed NHP Regulations

The NHPPA has, historically, been incredibly accurate in our predictions for the effects of proposed Natural Health Product Regulations. Additionally, we see the following as likely if recently proposed changes to the regulation of NHPs are enacted:

- Limiting the types of scientific evidence available to Canadians
- Forcing recalls without Court supervision; natural health product manufacturers, suppliers and natural health practitioners will feel they have no choice but to comply to requests due to exponentially increased fines for non-compliance
- Increased risk exposure to individuals due to lower risk NHPs becoming less readily available, forcing many to higher risk pharmaceuticals as their treatment
- Could force cost recovery measures by imposed fees driving even more NHP producers out of the market and increasing prices of NHPs making them even more unaffordable.