

Dear _____ Member of Parliament

As a voting Canadian citizen who chooses to use Natural Health Products (NHPs), I am absolutely appalled that my government is standing by while Health Canada forces thousands of safe and effective natural products off the market and forces countless legitimate small and medium-sized businesses to fold in the name of 'safety'. This makes no sense when the products concerned have survived market forces for generations and are trusted by millions of Canadians. The only intelligent explanation is that it is in Health Canada's interests to choke Canada's natural health and traditional medicine industries out of existence to remove the competition for pharmaceutical drugs. Is this an agenda you are proud to preside over?

In democratic societies, our police do not write our laws. Neither do they oversee their own enforcement of them. This is to keep policy creation separate from policy implementation and oversight. It has been a cornerstone of democracy since the 13th century. It not only protects society from conflicts of interest and abuse, it protects the police and government from the appearance and accusation of corruption. To prevent the opportunity for control by vested interests, it is imperative that the bodies that draft legislation and regulations are not the same as those who enforce them. And yet Parliament allows Health Canada to do just this.

After consulting Canadians for two years on the issue of NHPs, Health Canada officials publicly announced that the number one concern they heard by far was that Canadians wanted greater access to a wider variety of products. Instead Health Canada has reduced the number of NHPs available for domestic purchase from over 70,000 in 2004 to an approximate 30,000 by 2011. This is the exact opposite of the wishes of Canadians and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Health and the Transition Team.

Health Canada's response to requests for a regulatory change to increase access was to regulate NHPs as drugs, demanding drug-style claims and standards of evidence. Parliament's own overriding recommendation, after exhaustive scrutiny, was that NHPs be given their own legislative category separate from either "Foods" or "Drugs" to reflect their safe nature. Health Canada's current claim that NHPs are regulated separately from drugs is an evasion of the truth and an insult to your intelligence. They are now a subset of drugs, regulated by a different directorate but under the same standards as chemical pharmaceuticals. The resultant demand that products, in which Canadians have been using safely and effectively for generations, must now produce evidence of safety and efficacy has disallowed multiple thousands of products that your constituents rely on for their health. It has further led to situations in which a parsley product has been refused a licence because it cannot be 'proven' safe. This would be farcical if the livelihoods of legitimate stakeholders weren't under threat.

Are you content to take Health Canada's word that what they are doing is valid, reasonable, the will of Parliament and the people, and not influenced by outside vested interests? Or do you see it as part of your role as my democratically elected representative to check the situation for yourself? To view the facts, hear both sides. Why do you think that legal and constitutional experts are warning the current crisis is eating away at the core of our constitutional rights and freedoms? I used to take for granted my constitutional freedom to make informed decisions. I may still do so if I wish to consume alcohol, cigarettes or prescription pharmaceuticals. All of which can kill me. Why do you suppose the ability to maintain my health with the NHP of my choice has been withdrawn?

Please provide a written response to my concerns which has not been drafted for you by Health Canada. Please do everything in your power to assist having the **2004 NHP Regulations suspended pending independent review**.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the welfare of your constituents,

Sincerely,

Signed

Dated

Name

Signature:

Date:

Additional Comments/Questions:

A Letter regarding the Natural Health Product Regulations

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

**FREE
POSTAGE**

_____ **M.P.**

**House of Commons
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Ottawa, Ontario
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