



Rick Dykstra
Member of Parliament

April 6, 2012

Mr. [Name]
[Address]
[City, Province, Postal Code]

Dear Mr./Ms./Mrs. [Name]:

We understand the importance of Natural Health Products and your concerns. Our government recognizes that the old approach to regulating natural health products was simply not sustainable. The regulations of the Natural Health Products are created after consulting Canadian consumers, scientists, health care practitioners and industry stakeholders. Despite many NHPs being reviewed, based on their safety profiles, the majority of NHPs are the safest possible products for Canadians and will continue to be sold here and in other countries. In addition, in the first 2 full years of the regulations in 2007/08, 12,000 natural health products were approved. In the next 2 full years of the regulations in 2011/12, 12,000 natural health products were approved - an increase of more than 200%. This shows regulators for NHPs go beyond the effort in Canada. NHP's regulation requires a lot of work which is achieved with Great Regulatory Practices (GRP) for product safety and efficacy.

In 2006, the 22 recommendations of the Standing Committee on Health were accepted by the Canadian government, and then implemented the creation of the Office of Natural Health Products (ONHP) in Canada. It is now referred to as the Natural Health Products Directorate and is part of the Health Products and Food Branch of Health Canada. The ONHP will work closely in implementing the 22 recommendations of the Standing Committee on Health.

The Director of Health and Product Safety works with NHPs when conducting the safety review for Canadians. Health Canada is working to improve the rules and pathways to ensure that new products being brought to market, while maintaining consumer safety and access to a wide selection of products. The Charter works with the Canadian government to protect the NHP and Canadian citizens. The Charter will continue to do an excellent job in protecting NHPs and most importantly the safety of people. It will also protect from those companies

For more information, visit www.nhp.ca
1-877-947-4642
Toll-free in Canada
1-800-387-0873
Toll-free in the U.S. and Mexico
1-800-387-0873
Toll-free in the U.S. and Mexico
1-800-387-0873
Toll-free in the U.S. and Mexico



products taking over NHPs, which is what has happened in some European countries.

"We applaud the Prime Minister, his team and the Commissioners for listening to Canadians concerned about the appropriate level of regulation for natural health products." – Helen Sherrard, CHFA President

If there is anything else our office can do, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rick Dykstra, Member of Parliament