

Dear Patients and Friends,

We are forwarding you some important information about C-51 -- a bill which will have a significant impact on the health care choices that you will be allowed to make in the future if it is passed. It will affect access to naturopaths as well as the ability for naturopaths to prescribe and/or sell natural health products.

The following has been copied from the Ontario Association of Naturopathic Doctor's (OAND) web site to help you understand the issue at hand:

What is Bill C-51?

Federal legislation tabled on April 8, 2008. It proposes significant amendments to the Food and Drugs Act. The bill received second reading on April 30, 2008 and debate continues. Once debate is concluded there will be a vote on the motion to move the bill to the Standing Committee on Health. It is expected that all parties will support the motion. During the hearings before the Standing Committee on Health, stakeholders and M.P.'s on the committee will have the opportunity to express their concerns and propose amendments to Bill C -51.

What does Bill C-51 Do? What are the CAND's (Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors) Concerns?

It moves natural health products, medical devices, cells, tissues, organs and drugs under the heading "therapeutic products". It does not differentiate between drugs and natural health products. At this point the bill does not impact the Natural Health Product Regulations.

It defines a practitioner in such a manner that NDs will be denied access to natural

health products deemed prescription therapeutic products. It also includes definitions of "sell" and "controlled activity" that differ from provincial legislation.

It proposes sweeping new powers of enforcement with increased penalties including the ability to enter business establishments without a warrant.

What is the CAND doing?

- Developed templates for members to use in expressing their concerns to their Members of Parliament;
- Engaging in dialogue with other stakeholders to develop strategies for collaboration;
- Engaging in discussions with key government officials to make sure our voice is heard on how the bill impacts NDs and expressing our support for a third category for natural health products and
- Preparing a Brief to the Standing Committee on Health.

What can you Do?

- Read Bill C-51-- go to www.oand.org;
- Contact the CAND with any questions or concerns;
- Use the CAND letter templates to contact your MP and express your concerns. (It is attached in Word format so you can also individualize your letter); and
- To find the contact information for your MP go to www.elections.ca

Your sincerely,

Katherine Willow, N.D, Director



What Else Can You Do?

Educate Yourself

- Go to <http://www.stopc51.com/>;
- Read a legal discussion on Bill C-51;
- Read bill C-51 on www.parl.gc.ca;
- Tell others about it;
- Talk to your local press;
- Contact your local MP;
- Ask the leaders in your community to get involved;
- Send our fact sheet to everyone you know;
- Contact your MLA;
- Tell your friends;
- Get involved;
- Attend a rally in your area; and
- Print off our fact sheet and hand it out in your neighborhood.

Additional Facts about bill C-51

The First Reading of Bill C-51 was on Wednesday, April 9th, 2008. The Second Reading is Scheduled for Monday, April 28th, 2008. It appears that our Government is trying to fast track this bill before anyone has a chance to challenge it. Bills normally take months to pass not weeks.

Bill C-51 eliminates the ability of our elected officials to protect us

Section 30(7) of Bill C-51

- Bypasses our elected official's ability to vote out laws that are not the will of, or in the interest of the Canadian people;
- Allows government agents, (not elected officials) to create binding laws behind closed doors;
- Creates new powers which will allow for the searching and seizing of private property and bank accounts without warrants;
- Fast tracks new drugs to market -- resulting in reduced safety measures by shortening the approval process for new drugs by placing the responsibility of safety on drug companies with a proven track record of downplaying the health risks and side effects;
- Makes upwards of 70% of natural health products

illegal. At the current rate of licensing failure, more than 70% of natural health products will be illegal; and

- Broad definitions will allow government agents to invoke enforcement on people who do as little as share a "therapeutic product" with a friend. Garlic and many other foods are therapeutic products.

Bill C-51 is not about Canadian Safety.

Bill C-51 is about Big Pharma.

Bill C-51 will allow binding laws to be created in secret.

In Canada the law making process takes place in a public forum with our elected officials voting for or against them. They are held accountable to the public for their decisions. If Bill C-51 passes, it will allow laws to be created behind closed doors, by government agents who may not have our best interests in mind.

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