

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As a voting Canadian citizen, **I strongly oppose** Bill C51, and Natural Health Products (NHP's), being regulated as drugs. Never before have I seen our State try to control the Canadian population at such an individual, personal level. If passed, Bill C51 will exert sweeping State controls over every level of the NHP industry, from manufacturer to consumer. This may sound like a good idea to someone who does not know the history of the industry's relationship with Health Canada, but for those who do, it is clear that this bill would spell the end of the natural health product industry in Canada, as it now exists. Bill C51 should not be passed. Please consider the following:

Our healthcare system is already overwhelmed, with long waiting lists, infections in the hospitals, and overcrowding. Due to this, many already hesitate to go to the hospital. But if Health Canada eliminates a major portion of natural health products and options, you will not want to step foot in a hospital, as the situation will be far worse than it is now, with more overcrowding, more infections, and more deaths. Largely unbeknownst to the government, the natural health product industry is saving our healthcare system billions in costs. I say billions because treatment is so much more expensive than prevention. To see our hospitals overwhelmed, just knock out the natural health industry, (more appropriately called the "prevention industry"), and you will see it far worse than it has *ever* been.

Hopefully it will not be you, or your children, or your parents that require medical services, because if the natural health industry is eliminated, with it will go a healthcare modality that many millions rely upon. The void left by this will produce pandemonium in our medical system.

Bill C51 would make the large majority of NHP's illegal, and simultaneously provide for "Progressive Approval" of pharmaceutical drugs. I only want to use pharmaceutical drugs when it is completely necessary, and to aid me in this I want *greater* access to natural products...not less. With 80,000 plus man-made chemicals in our environment, and hundreds of them in every one of our bloodstreams, I want fewer synthetic chemicals in my body, not more. It seems odd that my government would, intentionally or not, steer me into using prescription drugs when they are a leading cause of death? (1) The natural health industry provides me with many effective options, without using chemicals. And with zero (0) deaths in sixty plus years, NHP's are obviously very safe. More Canadians die *every* year from such common food allergies as peanuts and shellfish, than have *ever* died from using an NHP. Why then is the government protecting us so tenaciously from natural products, and spending so many millions of our tax dollars regulating them?

Bill C51 appears to be part of a deliberate Health Canada plan to corral NHP's. The Bill provides jurisdiction over natural products *because* they are classified as drugs. Yet, Parliament gave a specific directive several years ago that NHP's were *not to be classified as drugs*. In one of the largest protests of all time in 1997, Canadians made it resoundingly clear that they did not want NHP's classified as drugs. It was then firmly established by the Standing Committee on Health that the drug approval model used to screen synthetic pharmaceutical drugs could not be fairly applied to NHP's. Accordingly, the Committee's first of 53 (accepted) recommendations to Parliament was that the Food and Drugs Act be amended to provide NHP's with a separate third category. Yet despite the protests and Parliament's will, Health Canada proceeded to classify NHP's as drugs anyway! Now, if Bill C51 is passed, scores of NHP's will be eliminated from the market because they are classified as drugs, and remain unapproved. It would appear that this was not an accident, but rather, by design.

It is unacceptable that Health Canada was allowed to simply ignore the wishes of Parliament and the public. The current NHP regulations are squashing innovation and have eliminated thousands of

products from the market. Please see to it that Health Canada is forced to create a third category, separate from Food or Drugs, that protects and legitimizes NHP's and my rights to use them.

Bill C51 also seems to be targeting the NHP industry by proposing a maximum \$5,000,000 fine for selling or manufacturing an unapproved therapeutic product. This is irrelevant to the pharmaceutical industry. \$5,000,000 is a miniscule size fine for most drug companies, and rarely, if ever, is a prescription or over the counter drug sold commercially in Canada that is *not* Health Canada approved. Conversely, approximately 90% of natural products remain unapproved, and this fine is big enough to shut down most natural health businesses.

When Health Canada was confronted with the directive to create a new category for NHP's, the reason given for not doing it was that it would take too long, and would be too much work. Why now is it suddenly *not* too much work to rewrite and redefine the Act? Bill C51 will allow Health Canada enforcement officers to seize products at will, without a warrant, and without any legal accountability whatsoever, and to administer businesses they are raiding heavy penalties with no legal recourse. The bill provides HC inspectors with more power to seize vitamins than our police have to seize illicit street drugs like cocaine and crystal meth. The amount of regulatory concern over NHP's is so out of proportion to their low risk levels that it is painfully obvious that what is at stake is not public safety. Rather, it is market control over treatment of disease.

It is ironic that I can still go to the gas station and buy cigarettes that were proven long ago to be deadly, yet things I would use to improve my health, and save the taxpayers' money are to be further restricted. At any grocery store I can buy and use ginger for my cookies, cayenne for my chili, alfalfa for my salads, or turmeric for my curry sauce. It seems rather perverse that as soon as any of these are put into capsules and used for the purpose of improving my health, that they are suddenly classified as drugs. This is because they are classified based on what they are *used for*, rather than what they *are*, regardless of how innocuous they might be. This is what the pharmaceutical-medical complex, with Health Canada seemingly at their behest, has tried to gain control over for decades, i.e. what an individual uses to support their health, whether they are treating disease, or simply maintaining their wellness. Seriously and respectfully, I say with zero deaths in 60 years, and with so many Canadians finding effective ways to help themselves with NHP's, to regulate them out of existence is immoral. Would you not agree?

If I can't take care of myself, or my family because of government regulations, then as far as I'm concerned, I am not living in a free nation. If passed, Bill C51 would represent an unprecedented removal of liberty, and nothing less than the death of Canadian democracy. **Please vote against it.**

Respectfully yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This letter represents the views of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (printed)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Constituency: \_\_\_\_\_