**Practitioner - points to reference when engaging their Local MP**

* Request a meeting with your MP as a face to face, or Zoom meeting
* Indicate you have concerns that your business and ability to practice your profession are under threat, and it is important that you discuss your concerns.
* Print out the following second list below called “TalkingPoints” and leave it with your MP as a summary of points they can reference when they bring the matter to the Health Minister. (Let’s hope they do)

Here is some guidance and talking points for your meeting with your MP

* 1. Introduce yourself, your type of practice, number or employees (if you have) number of patients you see regularly.
  2. Indicate that you use natural health products as part of your regular practice and that these products are low risk when used responsibly and under your care.
  3. Indicate that it is a huge concern to you that Health Canada, while under the NNHPD regulatory process to ensure the quality of NHPs, have completely ignored the professionally dispensed category of products.
  4. Emphasize the result of the NNHPD omitting a professionally dispensed category has resulted in the fact that all NHPs are regulated as if they are over the counter products. This effect on your practice is that labels do not reflect the therapeutic levels that may be required for an effect, creating confusion for the patient.
  5. Introduce to the MP that a current pressing issue is at hand. The NNHPD has a new proposed Cost Recovery Plan submitted May 12, 2023. If it is adopted, you have heard from your suppliers that it will severely impact the manufacturers and importers and limit your access to NHPs.
  6. In addition, the proposed changes will increase the already escalating cost of NHPs.
  7. Reflect to the MP, that you yourself have reviewed the costs, discussed them with your colleagues and suppliers. Reflect that you consider the fees proposed are far too excessive for these relatively low risk products.
  8. Express that industry stakeholders have mentioned thousands of jobs in the manufacturing, importing and distribution in Canada will be lost due to the inability for mid and small businesses to manage these fees.
  9. Share with the MP that your ability to do your job of providing health care solutions to patients that are not being serviced by the already overburdened conventional medical system, will only compound the crises for patients!
  10. Ask the MP if they understand the concerns that you and your colleagues have about your professional needs.
  11. Ask if they also see the larger ramifications to your patients who have not been adequately served by the current system, and now as a result of these excessive fees, may not have their needs adequately met by you in the future.
  12. Ask if they have ever engaged the Health Minister on behalf of concerned constituents. Do they see the urgency of engaging the Minister before the July 26 deadline.

**Talking points to the Health Minister to be left with your MP (Copy and paste, make adjustments as suggested and print on a separate sheet of paper. When you are finished with your meeting, offer this summary to the Minister for her/his reference**

**Your Name, Credentials, Address, email and phone.**

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today, here is a summary of points to bring to the awareness of the Health Minister as soon as possible.

* The NNHPD has released a cost recovery proposal on May 12, 2023 to the Health Care industry that has constituents very concerned.
* Natural Health Care practitioners and patients are concerned that the proposed fees are too overwhelming. As a result, it has been predicted that a number of suppliers will not be able to continue to make currently licensed NHPs available to practitioners and the public at large. This will result in the reduction of available NHPs on the Market and impact jobs.
* Natural Health Products are low risk and are used safely by millions of Canadians.
* Request that the minister request a public consultation with the NNHPD to discuss its current direction, and why they (the NNHPD) are incrementally increasing the downward pressure on the Natural Health product industry. The public needs protection from efforts from the NNHPD to so that their affordable NHPs costs are maintained.
* With the current medical doctor shortage and opioid crisis, natural health care practitioners can reduce the burden on the medical system by providing lower cost solutions. The Health Minister should ensure that current access to natural health products is maintained so that these health care practitioners can continue to service patients in need.