



Potential Change to Naturopathic Medicine in Alberta

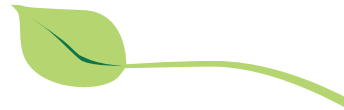
For the past 65 years, Naturopathic Doctors have given Albertans excellent care. This has been proven by independent reports, objective research, historical evidence and a superb safety record.

The extent of that care is now being threatened. It has been recommended by provincial government officials that Naturopathic Doctors be prevented from ordering or dispensing natural medicines that require a prescription. Natural medicines include bio-identical hormones, antibiotics, anti-fungals and amino acids. Research has proven them to be safe, gentle and effective.

Impact

If the recommended regulation becomes law, it would mean that Naturopathic Doctors could no longer treat patients with prescription natural medicines.





Thousands of patients would be negatively affected. One example: prescription bio-identical hormones are an important treatment option for women with severe menopausal symptoms.

This proposed change to current practice is puzzling since the clinical standards of Naturopathic Doctors are high, their safety record is excellent and training is extensive. Naturopathic Doctors have seven or more years of university education (including pre-med), spend more time in the classroom than medical students and take similar courses.

Solution

Many other health professionals in Alberta have limited authority to prescribe and dispense drugs. This includes dentists, pharmacists, mid-wives and nurse practitioners. Naturopathic Doctors want the same limited prescription authority – as it relates to natural medicines.

This would not violate Alberta's Health Professions Act, would give Albertans the choice they want and would leave Naturopathic Doctors with critical treatment options.

Naturopathic Doctors in several U.S. states including Washington and Montana have prescription authority. It is expected that British Columbia will follow soon.

What You Can Do

Candidates in the 2008 provincial election need to know the importance you place on naturopathic medicine. Talk to them. Tell them you value Naturopathic Doctors and the care you receive. Ask them to support limited prescription authority for Naturopathic Doctors.

Go to www.elections.ab.ca or call (toll free 310-0000 then 780-427-7191) to find information about your constituency and election candidates.



Alberta Association of
Naturopathic Practitioners