

Canadian Society of Homeopaths

How to Write Your Member of Parliament About Your Concerns

This document has been created to help all Canadians with an interest in Natural Health Products, and especially homeopathic products, to understand the background and current situation resulting from recent actions by Health Canada. There are **several things that you can do to oppose these actions.**

First, we suggest that you **read and understand the following:**

1. NHPPA's 2-page [Natural Health Products Crisis Summary](https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2-page-Natural-Health-Products-Crisis-Summary-2023.pdf)
(<https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2-page-Natural-Health-Products-Crisis-Summary-2023.pdf>)
2. NHPPA's [Discussion Paper Release: 2023 Health Canada Initiatives](https://www.nhppa.org/?page_id=21833)
(https://www.nhppa.org/?page_id=21833)

Second, we suggest that you **respond immediately to Health Canada's online [Consultation on Natural Health Products Fee Proposal](https://www.healthcanada.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6S9O1Idu8CNj7Tg?Q_Language=EN)** (https://www.healthcanada.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6S9O1Idu8CNj7Tg?Q_Language=EN). Do not let the initial pages concerning your privacy distract you from this important opportunity to **express your concerns about this important issue.** Health Canada clearly states in the Gazette posting that the proposed increase in fees includes "mitigation and accountability measures that follow best practices already in place for drugs and medical devices". The deadline for completion of this consultation is August 10.

Third, we suggest that you, along with many thousand others, **inundate the Ottawa offices of Members of Parliament with physical mail.**

We ask our members, and all others with an interest in homeopathy and Natural Health Products (NHP), to **commit to mailing** at least one hand-written or typed-with-signature letter per week to your own Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister, or the Minister of Health.

We are including ideas below to help make this letter-writing an easy, rewarding, and successful endeavour. Natural Health Products Protection Association (NHPPA) also has a number of suggestions [HERE](https://www.nhppa.org/?page_id=22596) (https://www.nhppa.org/?page_id=22596) for how to make your submission more effective.

CSH suggests that you **emphasize the following 3 points** in both your consultation response and letter-writing:

1. Clearly state **why homeopathic remedies or products and Natural Health Products are important to you.**
2. Clearly explain **what you are concerned about** (including the new definition of “therapeutic products” and effects of the proposed increase of fees).
3. Clearly state **what you want this person to do for you**, including **“Repeal Sections 500-504 of C-47”** and **“Reject all consideration of increasing fees to manufacturers and importers”**. Do not ask for the recipient to simply address your concerns as this can be open to interpretation.

For those with an interest in homeopathy, we encourage you to **specify homeopathy**, as well as your interest in NHP. Please send copies of these letters to Canadian Society of Homeopaths at homeopathy@csoh.ca.

Addressing Your Letters

If you don't know the **name of your Member of Parliament**, go [HERE](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en) (<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>) and type your postal code in the search bar and then click on the search icon.

Address your letter to the **MP's Ottawa mailing address:**

Name of Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

To find the address of your **MP's Constituency office** go [HERE](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/addresses) (<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/addresses>).

The address for the Prime Minister:

The Rt Honourable Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The address for the Minister of Health

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The address for the Associate Minister of Health

The Honourable Ya'ara Saks
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

If you want to know how your Member of Parliament voted on Bill C-47, go [HERE](#) (<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/votes/44/1/366?view=province-territory>).

Members of Parliament are required to respond to all correspondence, so when you receive their reply to your letter, please respond

We look at this **letter-writing as the start of a dialogue between you and specific MPs**. They will respond to your first letter, to which you reply with either encouragement or clarification, to which they will respond, etc. Point out as clearly as possible, with links or quotes to original source material discussed herein, to what they clearly don't understand about your concerns. It goes back and forth until hopefully they begin to understand.

We ask that **our members and others who send letters mentioning homeopathy also send a copy to CSH** at homeopathy@csoh.ca.

Sample Format for Writing Your Member of Parliament About Your Concerns

[Your Street address;
Town/City, Province, Postal Code;
Date]

Dear [recipient name and position],

[Introduce yourself in terms of what you want them to do for you]

- I am a resident in the riding you represent.
- I have voted for you in previous elections and want you to know that my future votes will be based on your response to my concerns.
- I have not voted for you in the past but want you to know that my future votes will be based on your response to my concerns.

[Explain your concerns]

- I am concerned about recent actions by Health Canada that will have a major negative influence on Canadian's access to Natural Health Products.
- I am concerned about the ramifications from a) the new definition of "therapeutic products" recently passed in C-47 and b) Health Canada's proposed increase in fees for manufactures and importers of all Natural Health Products.

[Explain what you expect this person to do for you]

- I [expect / need / require] you to first learn about these threats from Health Canada aimed at Natural Health Products, including homeopathics, by reading the attached [Natural Health Products Crisis Summary](https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Natural-Health-Products-Crisis-Summary-2023.pdf) (<https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Natural-Health-Products-Crisis-Summary-2023.pdf>) from the Natural Health Products Protection Association (NHPPA) and their [Discussion Paper](https://www.nhppa.org/?page_id=21833) (https://www.nhppa.org/?page_id=21833) posted on their website. With this knowledge, I [expect / need / require] you to then work towards **“Repealing Sections 500-504 of C-47”** and **“Rejecting all consideration of increasing fees to manufacturers and importers”**.
- You will note from your reading that both Sections 500-504 of C-47 and Health Canada’s proposed fee increase will result in reduced access to, choice of, and affordability for Natural Health Products by all consumers across Canada.
- After regulation of Natural Health Products started nearly 20 years ago, many small manufactures of NHPs closed down their businesses, moved to another country, or ceased development of their business plans. The same will occur with the new changes instigated by Health Canada, which is why they must not be allowed to take effect.
- According to a 2010 public opinion poll on natural health products, about 70% of Canadians regularly used such products to maintain their health and prevent minor health problems.
- Natural Health Products include homeopathic remedies and cell salts; vitamins (such as Vitamin A, a range of Bs, C, and D3); supplements (ranging from apple cider vinegar to zinc); herbs (including Bach flowers, chamomile, and dandelion); and probiotics.

➤ Natural Health Products – and especially homeopathic products – have a long history of helping to save lives and improving health; reducing the overwhelming burden on our healthcare system; and maintaining a significant record of safety.

[Explain the effect of a) Sections 500-504 of C-47 and b) increased fees on both the industry and consumers]

➤ The revisions in Sections 500-504 in C-47 give Health Canada broad-reaching powers to regulate the sale of all herbs, vitamins, supplements, homeopathic remedies, and other products.

➤ This section of C-47 gives Health Canada powers and penalties that include an increase in fines from a current maximum of \$5,000 per offence to \$5,000,000 per day of an offence. Directors, officers, and employees also will be personally responsible for these \$5,000,000 a day fines.

➤ Sections 500-504 in C-47 will lead to Health Canada being able to suspend or cancel clinical trials, disclose and demand confidential information, and impose costly fines for minor infractions – with no mention of an appeal process after such decisions.

➤ This section of C-47 grants the equivalent to police state powers to essentially untrained field staff, inspectors at Health Canada, who are making life-and-death decisions based on what is essentially misguided policy.

➤ This section of C-47 gives unreasonable powers to inspectors of Health Canada to require "corrective action" that could result in fines of \$5,000,000 per day.

- Any increase in fees to the industry will be passed on to the consumer, which will make many of these products unaffordable and therefore inaccessible to many Canadians.
- Prices to consumers will increase which will remove access to products for people who can no longer afford them.
- Increased consumer prices will make some products too expensive for many who need them to maintain their own health. This could significantly affect their lives.
- The effect of Sections 500-504 of C-47 appears to be a desperate effort to destroy the Natural Health Products industry that's threatening the profits and viability of conventional medicine and the pharmaceutical industry.
- While Health Canada will be impacted by this loss of projected income from increased fees, millions of Canadian consumers of Natural Health Products should not be forced to bear the cost.

[Describe your interest in homeopathy and Natural Health Products]

- I have used homeopathic remedies and Natural Health Products, for myself, my family, and my animals for many [or the number of] years
- My family and I have relied on Natural Health Products, including homeopathic remedies, for many [or the number of] years
- My family and I rely on homeopathic remedies and Natural Health Products for [specify one or more reasons that you rely on NHPs].
- We find homeopathic remedies to be a non-addictive, environmentally-friendly, and affordable and effective approach to maintaining our health and wellbeing.

➤ Both homeopathic remedies and Natural Health Products have played a vital role in maintaining the health and well-being of myself, my family, and my animals.

[Explain at least one reason that Natural Health Products and homeopathy are important to you]

ADD:

➤ Homeopathic remedies are particularly safe from unwanted side effects and addiction to the patient and non-toxic to the environment and our natural water systems, by both use and manufacturing of these products.

[Conclusion]

➤ Sections 500-504 of C-47 must be repealed and the proposed increase in fees must be rejected. Please explain what you will do to support my expectation of repealing this section of the Act and rejecting all proposals from Health Canada that would increase fees to members of the industry.

➤ As my representative in Parliament, I insist that you work to repeal Sections 500-504 of C-47 and completely reject any proposal to increase fees for manufacturers and importers.

➤ As you are acting as the Minister of Health, I insist that you repeal Sections 500-504 of C-47 and completely strike down and reject any proposal to increase fees.

- Millions of Canadians who value and depend on Natural Health Products and homeopathy are counting on you to protect our access to these essential health products and our freedom to choose how to improve and maintain our health.
- Please let me know how you plan to support the need to a) repeal Sections 500-504 of C-47 and b) completely reject Health Canada's proposed fee increase.
- I await your written confirmation that you will support the need to a) repeal Sections 500-504 of C-47 and b) completely reject Health Canada's proposed fee increase.
- Please note that if you fail to follow my directions, I shall pursue other avenues of recourse against you and your party.

Sincerely / Respectfully / Yours truly,

[Your signature]

[Your name]

[Your e-address]

[Your phone number if you would like them to call you back]

[Attach a copy of the NHPPA's 2-page [Natural Health Products Crisis Summary](https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2-page-Natural-Health-Products-Crisis-Summary-2023.pdf) (<https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2-page-Natural-Health-Products-Crisis-Summary-2023.pdf>).]

[Optional: You can send copies of your MP letter to the PM and Minister of Health at this time or you can send revised copies to them in Weeks 2 and 3]

cc The Rt Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister

cc The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health

If you have mentioned homeopathy in your letter, please send a copy to CSH at homeopathy@csoh.ca.

Note that **no postage is required for letters addressed to MPs' Ottawa office**. Postage will be required, however, for letters mailed to their constituency office.

Copies of your letter can be mailed to your MP's local constituency office as well, though postage will be required. Also, if you have a fax machine, then in addition to mailing your letter, **fax the same letter to both their Ottawa and constituency offices**, including the NHPPA's [Discussion Paper](https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/NHPPA-Discussion-Paper-on-2023-Health-Canada-Initiatives-Revised-June-26-2023.pdf) (<https://www.nhppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/NHPPA-Discussion-Paper-on-2023-Health-Canada-Initiatives-Revised-June-26-2023.pdf>).

Please share information about this important situation and our campaign to combat it, along with this pdf, to everyone you know who uses natural health products and homeopathy. Ask them to support us in their own interest, to the benefit of millions of Canadian users of homeopathy and Natural Health Products.

Thank-you for your commitment on behalf of homeopathic consumers across Canada! We hope you find it an easy and rewarding experience.