

CHFA chairman John Holtman's concern that "Bill C-420 would negate millions of Canadian taxpayers' dollars spent in the development of new regulations"

Who needs regulations for products that are safer than foods if it is not for protecting big business/pharma? If they want specs. for their own stuff they can do what ever they want, however, tax payers need not foot the bill via regs on their behalf when there so many more important things like toxic drugs etc being neglected.

Chris Gupta

At 02:29 PM 12/05/2005, Croft Woodruff wrote:

Add or edit to suit... - CW

The Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA) position on Bill C 420 is a total betrayal of the majority of the CHFA membership and the natural health product consumer.

Current trends and events clearly demonstrate the pharmaceutical drug influence in Health Canada that makes the passing of C 420 absolutely vital to the survival of the natural health product industry in Canada. Right now Big Pharma is actively lobbying the members of parliament to either block C 420 or amend it to include the so-called "3rd category." If the CHFA board of directors think Big Parma is their friend they are incredibly naive.

So far Health Canada, through arbitrary enforcement of Gazette 2004, has driven a number of companies out of business, financially crippled others and threatens still more companies with eventual oblivion.

CHFA chairman John Holtman's concern that "Bill C-420 would negate millions of Canadian taxpayers' dollars spent in the development of new regulations" rings hollow in light of the fact the big players in the industry, simply because of their size, can afford to pay for this "rip off" cost recovery program that is either crippling or threatening their medium to small business competitors with bankruptcy.

Where is Mr. Holtman's concern over the fact the big business interests in the CHFA will naturally recoup their investment in the NHP by passing their costs on to consumers. Consumers will pay more for products now made inferior since important ingredients such as vanadium, boron, strontium among others have been or will be eliminated while other nutrient ingredients have had their potencies needlessly reduced. They will lose and in fact are now losing access to quality products currently available since the manufacturer / importers are now barred from the market place thanks to HC's duplicitous

and arbitrary actions.

Industry Group Rejects Canadian Bill to Treat Natural Health Products as Foods

The Canadian government must protect and enhance current regulations for natural health products to ensure these products are regulated appropriately and free of pharmaceutical drug influence, according to the Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA), the country's largest natural health products association.

Testifying before the Standing Committee on Health, CHFA urged the committee to make good on its 1998 recommendations that acknowledged that natural health products were unique, and enshrine a separate definition for natural health products in law. While new natural health products regulations were introduced in 2004, natural health products remain classed as a subset of drugs. The committee is currently studying Bill C-420, which would change definitions in the Food and Drugs Act to treat natural health products as foods.

"Treating these products as foods is a step backwards that would create regulatory and market chaos," said John Holtmann, chair of the board of directors of the CHFA. "Bill C-420 would negate millions of Canadian taxpayers' dollars spent in the development of new regulations and the significant resources invested by industry to comply with the new regulations. Let's protect the benefits provided by the current regulations and improve regulatory processes by enacting the right legislation to establish a separate category."

Steven Dentali Named to USP Expert Committee