



Dr. James Lunney, MP
Nanaimo-Alberni

News Release

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Health Committee Examines Lunney's Bill

"Canadians deserve access to health promoting products," says MP

OTTAWA—Dr. James Lunney, MP for Nanaimo-Alberni, appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health today, presenting evidence in support of his natural health products (NHP) bill C-420. "Health Canada has a long history of bias against NHPs, and the new regulations continue that bias. This bill strikes at the heart of the problem, and will give Canadians the freedom of choice they deserve," said Lunney afterward.

New regulations classify NHPs as drugs. Bill C-420 would move the whole directorate to food-style regulation. The bill would also repeal antiquated sections of the Food and Drugs Act that have been used to take effective, low-risk products off the market. "Health Canada officials have been using the authority of their office and this archaic legislation to rob Canadians of their freedom to choose low-cost, low-risk products for their personal health care," said Lunney. "What the new regulations continue is unscientific and worse yet, contrary to the public interest."

In his concluding remarks to the Committee, Lunney drew attention to the fact that the Public Accounts Committee on the sponsorship scandal was hearing testimony from Chuck Guité; that scandal has rocked the capital. "When you steal their money, people get mad, especially when its hundreds of millions," said Lunney. "But when people come to understand that bureaucratic interference and technical obstructionism has blocked access to better health care, the ground may well split."

"Canadians have an expectation that Health Canada would have an interest in promoting the health of Canadians. With health care in crisis, it is simply not acceptable to obstruct access to low-risk, low-cost options," concluded Lunney.

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