



Background

About the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors

The Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND) is the first and only national not for profit professional association representing regulated (or, in unregulated jurisdictions, those who meet the criteria for regulation) naturopathic doctors (NDs) across Canada. Incorporated in 1955, the CAND advocates on behalf of the profession federally, is committed to state of the art scientific research and supports the regulation of all health care professionals to ensure public safety.

The Naturopathic Profession in Canada

Infrastructure

In Canada, the naturopathic professions infrastructure includes accredited naturopathic medical programs, rigorous standardized North American Board Exams (NPLEX, or CONO) and jurisdictional exams, standards of practice and full regulation in five Provinces and one Territory. The associations in the remaining jurisdictions are actively engaged with their respective Ministries of Health on the development of appropriate legislation and regulations.

Education, Training and Regulation

To become a naturopathic doctor in Canada an individual must attend and graduate from a Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME – www.cnme.org) full time accredited naturopathic medical program. There are five such programs in North America. The CNME accredited program in Canada is the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine which has two campuses, one in Toronto, Ontario and the second (formerly the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine) in New Westminster, B.C. To be accepted into the naturopathic medical program an individual must have completed an undergraduate degree (minimum of 3 years) with mandatory pre-requisite science courses and a minimum Grade Point Average of 3 on a 4 point scale – much like the requirements for acceptance into a mainstream medical program. The training at the CNME accredited programs consists of four years of full time study, including over 1,500 hours of supervised clinical experience. Details of the course of study in Canada can be found on the CCNM website at www.ccnm.edu.

Upon successful completion of this rigorous program, graduates are eligible to sit the entry to practice exams administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE), or the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (CONO) as well as any additional jurisdictional exams. Passing of the exams qualifies an ND for

registration with one of the five regulated provinces in Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario and with the Northwest Territories. Legislation in Nova Scotia, while not full regulation, stipulates that only those who have met the criteria for regulation may use the protected title “naturopathic doctor”. Although not all provinces and territories have regulation there are qualified NDs practicing in all jurisdictions.

Scope of Practice

The Scope of Practice for naturopathic doctors is as taught in the accredited naturopathic medical programs and/or as set out under provincial/territorial legislation in the regulated jurisdictions. The legislated Scope of Practice includes diet and lifestyle changes, clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, physical medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture, controlled acts/restricted activities such as making and communicating a diagnosis; administering a substance by injection or inhalation; prescribing, compounding, dispensing and/or selling a drug as prescribed in regulation. (It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive and is provided for information purposes). NDs are able to order standard diagnostic tests and work collaboratively with all members of the patient’s health care team. They are required to carry malpractice insurance and maintain continuing education.

Engagement with the Federal Government

The CAND is a recognized stakeholder with the federal government actively participating in a number of consultations and on expert advisory committees and scientific review panels. On June 19, 2014, the Federal Government passed into law the budget implementation bills; an Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in parliament on February 11, 2014 and other measures. This law now requires the professional services provided by naturopathic doctors to be exempt from the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax. The government made it clear that the exemption only applies to naturopathic doctors who have meet the standards set out above. The exemption is recognition by the government of the benefit of the services provided to patients by qualified naturopathic doctors. In 2022, naturopathic doctors were added by Veteran’s Affairs Canada’s to its list of approved health care professionals able to provide services for Canada’s veterans.

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