Use your letterhead/logo/address

DATE

MP name and email address

Dear (insert name of MP),

**Re: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Income of Naturopathic Doctors in Canada**

I am one of 2,800 Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) in Canada and practice in your riding. I take the health and care of my patients very seriously and continue to do all that I can, based on public health recommendations and the guidance from my regulator (can be left out if not regulated), to support them during the pandemic. While NDs operate outside the publically funded health care system, our practices provide care to more than one million Canadians every year. I myself have (insert number of patients) who rely on me for their healthcare needs.

Ninety-five per cent of NDs in Canada are self-employed, operating a variety of practices that include small to medium clinics with several practitioners and employees, sole practitioner practices or working as a contractor in one or several clinics. As a health care professional I provide essentials services to my patients but, under the current circumstances, I am restricted from seeing patients in person except where the patient’s health and safety may be at risk(may substitute with except in urgent health situations). In order to continue patient care, I have turned to telemedicine. However, this has resulted in significant reductions in both patient consults and income.

NDs fall outside the government relief measures announced to date. As we are self-employed, we do not qualify for Employment Insurance (EI); only the few large clinics will qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS); and, because the vast majority of us continue to practice in some capacity, we do not currently qualify for Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

As COVID-19 economic response measures continue to be evaluated, I urge you to ask the government to give additional consideration to those workers who are working reduced hours – like myself – who also need support.

I, and 85 per cent of NDs across the country, remain in practice to ensure our patients still have access to the care they need. However, I am struggling. In my practice, I am now working (xx) hours per week (or xx fewer hours a week) and have seen my income drop by (insert %).

Since March 15, more than 80 per cent of NDs who were working an average of 30 to 40 hours per week are now working between one and ten hours a week. Ninety-six per cent of them have seen their revenues drop by more than 30 per cent, with over 78 per cent experiencing a more than 60 per cent drop in income.

I understand that the government is doing all it can to help Canadians who need it in this difficult time. On April 6, the prime minister signaled that the CERB will be expanded to help those, like NDs, who are being left behind. Please encourage the government to implement these changes as quickly as possible.

Should you or your staff require more information about my experience as a naturopathic doctor during these difficult times, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Yours in health,

Insert signature and contact information if not previously stated