



June 4, 2025

Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, PC, MP  
Minister, Indigenous Services Canada  
140 O'CONNOR Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND) and our over 2,500 members across Canada, I am pleased to extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Indigenous Services.

The CAND would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss your priorities and how Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) can contribute to achieving them.

Naturopathic medicine offers a responsive approach to fulfilling several of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action related to healthcare. Uniquely, naturopathic medicine is intentional about holding space for Traditional Knowledge and embraces diverse healing practices, centering the whole person and their complete wellbeing.

Mounting evidence shows integrating naturopathic care can improve patient outcomes and provide supportive, culturally sensitive care. However, access to NDs is currently limited, disproportionately affecting individuals who cannot afford private healthcare or lack comprehensive private health benefit plans. There is a solution.

The CAND strongly supports the Assembly of First Nations' resolution seeking the inclusion of naturopathic medicine within the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. The framework for this implementation has already been established at the federal level with a similar initiative taken by Veterans Affairs Canada in 2022. NDs can help close the healthcare gaps experienced by Indigenous peoples, as health partners who take a holistic approach which can include and honour traditional healing, and culturally competent care.

I welcome the opportunity to connect and share the research and reality of this integrated approach. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Gemma Beierback  
Chief Executive Officer