

Protect Your Constitutional Rights

An Important Notice Regarding Bill C-51

On April 8, 2008, the Minister of Health in Canada introduced Bill C-51 into the House of Commons. This Bill proposes significant changes to the current *Food and Drugs Act* that would remove critical checks and balances from Health Canada and endanger your Constitutional rights to “life, liberty, and security of person” ([Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#), Section 7).

Without immediate action from concerned citizens like you, this Bill will soon be law in Canada.

Consider How Bill C-51 Would Affect You

- Many natural health products that have been sold in Canada for decades would become unavailable, and remaining products would cost much more (Sections 13 & 18.7);
- The government could designate any natural health product a prescription drug, making it available by prescription only (Section 15.1(4));
- You could be fined thousands of dollars or go to jail for giving your child or friend a natural health product (Sections 31 & 3(3) – expanded definition of “sell”);
- Researchers would lose academic freedom: they could not study the beneficial effects of natural health products without first getting the government’s permission (Sections 3(6) & 18.2);
- International laws that restrict access to natural health products could be made law in Canada *without the approval of elected officials* or any debate in the House of Commons (Sections 3(6) & 30(7));
- To enforce this new law, inspectors could enter private property and (Section 23):
 - take anything at their discretion;
 - never pay the owner for it;
 - charge the owner of the property a fee for shipping it to a secure storage unit;
 - charge the owner of the property fees for keeping it in storage;
 - keep it in storage as long as they want; and/or
 - dispose of it at will.

Health Canada Needs Checks and Balances

Acting under current laws, Health Canada has already endangered Canadians’ lives by seizing their natural health products. In 2003, Health Canada seized personal shipments of EMPowerplus, a vitamin-mineral supplement that hundreds of Canadians with bipolar disorder and other serious mood disorders depended on for mental wellness, and ordered Truehope Nutritional Support Ltd. to stop selling the supplement in Canada. Fearing for the safety of Canadians who were using EMPowerplus, Truehope disobeyed Health Canada’s orders and was charged with selling an illegal drug.

Fortunately, in this case, Health Canada was unsuccessful in removing EMPowerplus from the market. In 2006, Truehope was found *not guilty*. The court ruled that Truehope was “overwhelmingly compelled to disobey...in order to protect the health, safety and well-being of the users of the supplement”, and Health Canada dropped its appeal of this case in October 2006. ([Learn more](#)).

However, Bill C-51 would make it *easier* for Health Canada to seize natural health products like EMPowerplus in the future and remove them from the market, violating your Constitutional rights to “life, liberty, and security of person.”

What You Can Do To Protect Your Rights

- [Read Bill C-51](#).
- Read a [Discussion Paper on Bill C-51](#) by the President of the Natural Health Product Protection Agency (NHPPA).
- [Contact your local MP](#) to voice your objections to this Bill.
- **Forward this email** to all of your concerned friends and family.
- **Attend a key court case** to stop Health Canada from seizing natural health products without court permission.
Where: Federal Court of Canada, 635 8 Ave SW, 4th floor, Calgary, Alberta.
When: Friday, May 9, 2008, at 1:00 pm.