

Evaluation of Health Canada's Natural Health Products Program
Discussion Guide - External Stakeholders

Introduction:

The Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada's Office of Evaluation is conducting an evaluation of the Natural Health Products (NHP) Program for the period of 2010 until 2015.

To ensure that all evaluation issues are properly assessed, the Office of Evaluation will be interviewing internal (program staff and management) and external key informants (other government departments, provincial and territorial governments, stakeholder/health professionals associations, industry, and academia). We would like to interview you to gather your thoughts given your role as a representative of a key external stakeholder. The questions below will help guide the interview.

With your permission, this interview will be audio taped and may be transcribed to ensure that an accurate reflection of the conversation is captured and to aid in the analysis of information for the evaluation report. You are welcome to request a copy of the written transcript of the interview should you wish to review it. The audio tape recording and transcript will be stored in a secure folder accessible only to the Office of Evaluation; however, these files will be subject to the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*. All responses will be analysed and reported only in aggregate form and all identifying information will be removed.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this evaluation.

Questions:

1. Tell us about your organization's involvement with Health Canada's NHP Program.
2. How does Health Canada's role in the area of NHPs compare to the provincial/territorial role? Are there any overlaps and/or gaps?
3. In your opinion, in the past ten years, what are the key changes that have taken place with respect to NHPs in Canada? To what extent has Health Canada adapted to those changes? If possible, please provide examples. In your opinion, would Health Canada be able to adapt to future changes in the market of NHPs?
4. Thinking back on the past five years, how effective were Health Canada's activities to inform industry of the NHP regulatory requirements? How effective were Health Canada's activities to inform Canadians of the risks and benefits of using NHPs? Can you give some examples of what worked well and/or what should be improved?
5. In your opinion, to what extent has Health Canada been able to ensure that NHPs sold in Canada are safe, effective and of high quality?
6. Over the past five years, what have been the most significant successes and/or challenges of Health Canada's NHP Program? Overall, how can Health Canada improve the NHP Program?