Your name

Your street

Your city, province

Your postal code

Date

Contact name

Contact street

Contact city, Province

Contact postal code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 [**Introduce yourself.** You might include your registration title, how long you’ve been in practice, a brief description of what type of practice you’re in (e.g., solo practitioner/business owner, working in a multidisciplinary clinic, etc.), approximately how many patients you see annually, etc.].

*e.g., I’m a registered Dr. of Traditional Chinese Medine (TCM) who runs two clinics in Vancouver. I have been in practice for over 20 years, and between the two clinics, we see about 1500 patients annually.*

[**Introduce the issue of concern**. Rewrite this in your own words, as form letters that are all the same do not hold the same importance and weight. You might ask an AI app to help you with a rewrite, but make sure it still reads correctly, and your meaning is not changed before you send it.]

*e.g., I am concerned about the regulatory changes at Health Canada through the Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate (NNHPD). As it stands now, the NNHPD will be adding fees to all natural health products that are sold in Canada, including the Chinese herbs that I prescribe to my patients. I would like to know your stance on these regulatory changes.*

[**Give background information about TCM in our healthcare setting**. Rewrite this in your own words, as form letters that are all the same do not hold the same importance and weight. You might ask an AI app to help you with a rewrite, but make sure it still reads correctly, and your meaning is not changed before you send it.

Issues you may want to note:

- Across Canada, patients are having a hard time having their healthcare needs met because of insufficient numbers of physicians, nurses, and other conventional healthcare providers

- Frequent temporary closures of rural (or in some case not rural) hospitals

- Long wait times for surgeries and specialist visits

- Patients are paying for natural health products, including Chinese herbs, out of pocket, saving taxpayer money, but individuals have limited resources

- \*Explain how Chinese herbs are prescribed, and how annual fees on every herb and herbal product will cause a loss of availability and increase in cost of products]

*e.g., As you know, people across the country are struggling to get the healthcare they need and want. With physician and nurse shortages, many do not have a GP, and there are frequent temporary hospital closures and long wait times for specialists and surgeries. While I appreciate that both federal and provincial governments are making strides to amend that, adding these fees will further burden the public because increased costs on the natural health products will mean that companies will need to decide which products they can keep selling and whether they will even stay in Canada. TCM professionals like me personalize our treatments and the herbal formulations we prescribe for our patients. We have hundreds of single Chinese herbs and herbal formulas we choose from, and we often create custom prescription formulas containing between two to two dozen herbs. For this, patients pay largely out of pocket, and they have a right to their safe choice of care in our already regulated system.*

[**How the fees will further burden our healthcare and economy.** Rewrite this in your own words, as form letters that are all the same do not hold the same importance and weight. You might ask an AI app to help you with a rewrite, but make sure it still reads correctly, and your meaning is not changed before you send it.

Issues you may want to note:

- Companies who manufacture or distribute natural health products, including processed Chinese herbs, are saying they will need to assess which products they will keep selling and which they are going to drop because of cost

- Some companies may leave Canada because of these fees

- Small and medium-sized businesses will struggle the most with this added financial burden

- Companies will need to pass along the cost, making the products more expensive for patients/the public.

- Tariffs mean Canadians want to shop in Canada, but if products aren’t available or are too expensive, they won’t have that option

- Health Canada already has regulations in place for natural health products (NHPs), including Chinese herbs, so further regulation is not necessary

- If the public cannot buy within Canada, they will shop online, and those are likely to be from less safe and regulated sources, thus increasing health risks]

*e.g., I recognize that the NNHPD has reduced the fees from the initial proposal, but these fees will still greatly burden small and medium-sized businesses who already have many financial and business challenges. I have spoken with my herbal distributors who say that they will likely need to both decrease their product availability and increase their prices. Others are concerned about their ability to stay in business in Canada. I support Health Canada’s goal of ensuring safety and quality in the natural health sector, however, these fees are particularly concerning with the current issues around tariffs. Canadians are trying to shop within the country, so the loss of product availability and increased costs for those products that are able to remain in Canada will make this more difficult, forcing the public to shop online and outside of the country, often from sources that are less safe.*

[**What you would like done.** Rewrite this in your own words, as form letters that are all the same do not hold the same importance and weight. You might ask an AI app to help you with a rewrite, but make sure it still reads correctly, and your meaning is not changed before you send it.]

*e.g., This is an issue that is important to me, and to my choice in how our country moves forward. I would like to know your stance on this subject, and if you can offer your support to the regulated natural healthcare professionals in Canada, as well as to the patients and public who use natural remedies to better their health and their lives.*

Thank you for your attention to our profession’s concerns.

Sincerely,

Your name
Your title