

As I started to read the material in BILL C-6, I was surprised at the poor quality and explanations found within. Its short title CANADIAN CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT along with its interpretation lead to more questions than answers for me and I felt that such an obscure and poorly written piece of legislation would not even be brought to the House for reading.

From where did this BILL C-6 come from? Who generated this BILL? Did not such an attempt to control "natural products" receive an outstanding pouring of disdain from both the Natural Health Products industry and its users, like myself?

This document is the most invasive and dangerous work I have ever witnessed and for it to enter the House of Commons with any legitimacy is frightening for the people of this 'free' country. It is the PURPOSE of the Bill that should be reexamined: "The purpose of this Act is to protect the public by addressing or preventing dangers to human health or safety that are posed by consumer products in Canada, including those that circulate within Canada and those that are imported."

That would be the exact same mandate of those who produce Natural Health Products and also those who use them. It is that very avoidance of 'dangers to health' that has driven the large demand for 'natural' products and created an industry that is thriving. Consumers, like myself, and growing millions, do NOT wish to consume products with chemicals like that found in our current drug and food system, and depend on Natural Products and the research they provide.

My greatest fear of all of this is the question:

"Who is in charge of the decisions as to what is dangerous to one's health and what is not?" (chainsaws, knives, sharp pencils, ink in ball point pens, tobacco products?)

The entire ACT is a motherhood statement: that it will 'protect' all Canadians from harm yet, in our very food there are chemicals that are suspect carcinogenic and go unchecked or ignored by Health Canada. Even skin products are laced with such an abundance of chemicals which are absorbed into the body that after a life time of repeat applications, one has to wonder what the end health result will be?

Cancer, 30 years ago was about 1 in the 100,000 in population. Now it is 1 in almost two or three persons. You have to ask yourself why this has changed so dramatically and where is it going? (Look at the food industry and methods of food processing which continues today unhindered in that time frame.) It is those in the Natural Products Industry who are very aware of this and help people like myself find alternatives, sometimes at higher expense, to stay healthy.

Manufacturers are using new methods of preserving and preparing foods that have not been adequately researched yet are on our shelves, and more often than not, unlabelled. (Generically modified is a perfect example. I find that dangerous but obviously Health Canada does not. Who is right?).

It cannot be refuted that our modern society suffers from cancer and other disorders due to our food quality and diet. The additives and preservatives found in many foods contain carcinogenic fats and harmful additives and preservatives that are fed to children and adults. Retired seniors in senior faculties are also inundated with these chemicals which make the last of their lives disease ridden and accelerated memory loss. From microwaved food (microwaves are banned in Russia) to genetically engineered canola oil to Aspartame, Splenda, and MSG often hidden in processed foods, who is going to consider these a 'health risk' as they are perceived by those in the Natural Health Industry?

I could go on and on but the fact remains that this document is giving someone, non specific, a lot of power over what they deem as 'safe for the public.' What safeguards me from a person who feels that what is safe for him, is what I consider dangerous? What are the qualifications of the decision maker? What are the processes and steps to taken to reach decisions? Are our elected MP's involved?

What are the rights of those deemed 'unsafe' in that person's world yet perfectly safe in the Natural Products world?

Also, because of the wording of this Bill, someone has a lot of power and is not accountable for a decision possibly based on 'fear, speculation, or profit.' I am so uncomfortable with a 'big' brother deciding what I can eat, purchase etc. based on a very soft explanation on decision criteria found in this bill.

Most recently, a product I used in my spa rather than chemicals was Hydrogen Peroxide, 35% Food Grade. It is an amazing natural method of keeping our spa clean and at the same time, oxygenates our bodies. Our bathing clothes are not eaten up like with chlorine and when you get out, you have no chemical smell, and have no need to shower any residue off. It is a natural disinfectant. But, just recently, I was unable to purchase it and after calling the manufacturer why this product was banned in Canada so suddenly, the response was that the department in charged deemed it 'dangerous.' So it has started. What I deem as 'safe' is now dangerous. I have no input in this either. It is just a done deal.

I would suggest that any product, even bleach for clothes and gasoline for lawnmowers stored in sheds and garages are dangerous, but they are not pulled off the market. There is a very uneasy tone in Bill C-6 and it is up to those of you who are elected, or appointed, to be able to understand the complete ramifications of Bills such as this where the purpose of a Bill is not consistent with the best interest of the people.

Natural Health Products are not dangerous and are a vital part of millions of peoples' lives. This industry keeps millions of people healthier longer, and out of the Health Care System as well. Should the Conservative government decide to support this bill, I would suggest the majority of Canadians will soon realize that their freedom of choice has been jeopardized, there is poor leadership, and Big Business and Pharmaceuticals will benefit the most from this type of control.

It is very upsetting and extremely unfortunate that BILL C-6 has come this far. Many people who opposed Bill C51 are working full time and only a few have time to fight this type of imposition on our rights that continually return over and over again. Those like myself who depend on Natural Products already made great efforts to tell the current government that Bill C51 was wrong and that Natural Products should be classified on their own. Yet along comes Bill C-6 that is like a back door attempt to secure control of an industry that says NO to chemicals and drugs and YES to healthy and good quality lives. What is going ON?

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