

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regulator for Naturopathic Profession Applauds Completion of Legislative Process for New Naturopathy Act.

(Toronto, June 5, 2007): The Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy-Naturopathy (BDDT-N) marked yesterday's Royal Assent for the new Naturopathy Act which marks a major achievement in the history of the Naturopathic profession in Ontario. The new Act appears in Schedule P of Bill 171 ("The Health Systems Improvement Act").

Angela Moore, ND, Chair of the Board stated: "Regulation of Naturopathic Medicine under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)* has been an objective of the BDDT-N for many years. Its achievement is now a step closer. We would like to congratulate the McGuinty government and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, George Smitherman, for this major accomplishment".

Ms. Moore went on to explain that Ontario's naturopathic doctors have been regulated for more than 80 years under the *Drugless Practitioners Act*. The *Drugless Practitioners Act* is, however, seriously outdated legislation that does not include the same level of public safety and accountability provisions that are enshrined in the RHPA for other regulated health professions. The Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) recommended three times, most recently in its New Directions Report of April 2006, that naturopathic doctors be included under the RHPA. Naturopathic doctors are the last profession regulated under the *Drugless Practitioners Act* and that Act will be revoked upon proclamation of Schedule P.

"We are very pleased that a number of recommendations the Board made to improve the Naturopathy Act were accepted by the Standing Committee on Social Policy during its review of Bill 171," Moore said.

The Naturopathy Act must be proclaimed before it takes legal force and effect. A Transition Council will be set up in order to put the necessary regulations in place and carry out all of the tasks required for regulation of the profession under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. The Board hopes that the Transition Council will be appointed as quickly as possible so that this important work can begin.

There are currently 865 naturopathic doctors registered by the Board in Ontario. In order to be registered to practise in Ontario, Naturopathic Doctors must have completed three years of pre-medical studies at university, four years at an approved school of Naturopathic Medicine, have successfully completed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations and Ontario Board Examinations before applying for Registration with the BDDT-N.

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