

Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy NATUROPATHY

112 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1K9
Email: office@BDDTN.on.ca

Telephone: 416-866-8383
Facsimile: 416-866-2175
Toll Free: 1-877-361-1925

August 30, 2007

Dr. David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health and
Director, Infectious Diseases Branch
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
8th Floor, 5700 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5

Dear Dr. Williams,

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 8, 2007 addressed to all medical officers of health and copied to various officials of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, etc.

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy - Naturopathy to express our very grave concerns about the letter and the inferences contained therein that clearly malign this Board and the naturopathic medicine profession.

It is regrettable that you did not consult fully with this Board on this matter before issuing the letter.

In the second paragraph of the letter you indicate that the individual concerned "self identified as a naturopath". In subsequent paragraphs you state that you will be communicating with the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine and the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education. We are completely bewildered by these references since you now know that the person in question is not a registered naturopath. In an e-mail to our office dated August 29th, Cathie Walker stated that the individual concerned "did not purport to be a registered naturopath". Nonetheless, the clear and unmistakable inference drawn from your letter is that the problem raised therein is unique to, or has particular relevance for, the naturopathic medicine profession. Furthermore, your office has refused to provide the name of the person in question to this Board so that the Board may take action under the *Drugless Practitioners Act*, in particular under section 8.

The updated information provided by your office implies that the individual is unregistered and is continuing to provide services that include finger pricking. Finger pricking is a controlled act under the Regulated Health Professions Act. From what you describe it does not appear that any of the exceptions under that Act apply. If that is the case then the Ministry should be investigating and prosecuting this individual.

The BDDT-N is the regulator for naturopathic medicine in Ontario and therefore the appropriate contact in instances of professional misconduct by naturopathic doctors or those purporting to be. This Board is eager to take appropriate action within its statutory authorities against the individual concerned and to that end urges you, once again, to divulge his/her name to this Board along with whatever evidence of misconduct you have.

While we continue to be taken aback by your letter and by your lack of consideration to this Board and to the naturopathic medicine profession, I wish to assure you that we are, as always, more than willing to work with you and with medical officers of health on all matters pertaining to regulation of the naturopathic medicine profession in the public interest.

In future if you wish to distribute information to the naturopathic medicine profession, may we suggest that you convey your concerns to this Board which is able to communicate directly and authoritatively with all registered NDs. This method of communication would be more effective than only asking Medical Officers of Health and naturopathic educators to communicate the issue.

We request that you issue a clarification to all recipients of the letter stating clearly that the individual was not a registered naturopathic doctor nor had s/he, apparently, actually identified as one.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia J. Rennie, ND
Vice Chair