



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Naturopathic Profession Regulation – Proposed Key Elements

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Proposed Key Elements – Naturopathic Profession Regulation

PROPOSED KEY ELEMENTS

Q. *What are “key elements”?*

- A. Key elements cover the most important parts of the proposed Naturopathic Profession Regulation. The proposed key elements cover a lot of different topics, including ‘protected titles’ and ‘eligibility requirements’.

Q. *How did you come up with the proposed key elements?*

- A. The proposed key elements are based on Naturopathic Profession legislation in provinces across Canada, such as Alberta and British Columbia, while also taking into consideration the provisions established in the *Health and Social Services Professions Act* and the capacity of the Department of Health and Social Services to regulate professions in the NWT.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Q. *Can anyone provide feedback on the proposed key elements?*

- A. Yes. The Department of Health and Social Services encourages everyone to provide comments on the proposed key elements, including those currently practicing as Naturopathic Practitioners, other affected professionals, and the general public.

The feedback we receive on the proposed key elements will help us create a Regulation that is both functional and beneficial for the Naturopathic profession and the public.

The deadline for feedback is **Wednesday, August 31, 2016.**

Q. *Can I share the proposed key elements with my co-worker (friend, family member, etc.)?*

- A. Yes. The Department of Health and Social Services encourages you to share the document with anyone you think might be affected by the proposed key elements. The more feedback we receive on the proposed key elements, the more the Regulation will be functional and beneficial to the Naturopathic profession and the public.

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Proposed Key Elements – Naturopathic Profession Regulation

Q. *What happens to the proposed key elements after Wednesday, August 31, 2016 (the deadline for feedback)?*

A. The proposed key elements, as well as the feedback provided by professionals and the public, will help form the drafting instructions for the future Naturopathic Profession Regulation. This is one of many steps in the development of regulations to license professionals.

Q. *What if I have comments or questions after Wednesday, August 31, 2016 (the deadline for feedback)?*

A. Please feel free to send the Department of Health and Social Services feedback on the proposed key elements at the provided contact information. As with the development of all professional regulations, we will ensure that feedback provided by the public is considered through all stages of development.

Q. *How can I provide feedback on the proposed key elements?*

A. Submit comments by mail, email or fax.

Attn: Comments on Proposed Naturopathic Profession Regulation

Policy, Legislation and Communications
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THE FUTURE NATUROPATHIC PROFESSION REGULATION

Q. *What is a Naturopathic Profession Regulation and why is it needed?*

A. A Naturopathic Profession Regulation is legislation that will allow the Department of Health and Social Services to regulate and license the naturopathic profession in the NWT.

The primary purpose of regulating and licensing a profession is to protect the public. This is done by ensuring that anyone using a protected title, such as 'naturopathic doctor', has met and maintains accepted training standards.

The Department of Health and Social Services currently regulates a number of different professions, including physicians, dentists, psychologists, pharmacists, and midwives.

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Proposed Key Elements – Naturopathic Profession Regulation

Q. *Is the Naturopathic Profession regulated anywhere else in Canada?*

- A. Yes. The Naturopathic Profession is currently regulated in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. The NWT will be the first territory to regulate the profession through legislation.

The scopes of practice listed in each Act differ. For example, Ontario and British Columbia allow Naturopathic Practitioners to prescribe, compound, and dispense certain drugs if the Practitioner successfully completes the appropriate certification.

Q. *Are there Naturopathic Profession national standards or national exams?*

- A. The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education is accepted as the program accrediting agency for naturopathic medical education by, among other organizations, the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors and by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (please see www.cnme.org for more information).

The Naturopathic Physician Licensing Examinations are administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners. There are two parts to the exams: Part 1 is completed after an individual's second year of study, and Part 2 is completed after the fourth year of study (please see www.nabne.org for more information).

Q. *What is the “Health and Social Services Professions Act” and how will it affect the future Naturopathic Profession Regulation?*

- A. The *Health and Social Services Professions Act* is an ‘umbrella’ Act that will regulate a number of different health and social services professions. The Act sets the general requirements for each profession, such as registration and renewal procedures and the handling of complaints.

All professions licensed under the *Health and Social Services Professions Act* will have their own dedicated professional regulation. These regulations, such as the Naturopathic Profession Regulation, will establish all the specific requirements for that profession. For example: protected titles, training/education, and continuing competency.

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NATUROPATHIC PRACTITIONERS

Q. *I am a Naturopathic Practitioner in the NWT. Once the future Regulation is developed, how will it affect me?*

A. Anyone working as a Naturopathic Practitioner in the NWT will have to be registered and licensed under the Naturopathic Profession Regulation in order to use a protected title.

In order to be registered and issued a licence, you will have to meet all the eligibility requirements in the Regulation. Once registered and licensed, you will also be required to abide by the Regulation (licence renewal, continuing competency, standards of practice, additional certification for IV Therapy and/or Prescribing, etc.).

The key elements list all the proposed registration and licensing requirements. The Department of Health and Social Services encourages you to review the proposed key elements carefully and provide feedback.

Q. *I want to register as a professional corporation. Why isn't this included in the Regulation?*

A. Professional corporations are addressed through the NWT's *Professional Corporations Act*, not through professional regulatory legislation.

Once the Naturopathic Profession Regulation comes into force, a Naturopathic Practitioner or the NWT Association of Naturopathic Doctors, on behalf of Naturopathic Practitioners, can write a letter seeking designation under the *Professional Corporations Act*. The *Professional Corporations Act* will then be amended to include Naturopathic Practitioners.

For more information on professional corporations, please see:
<http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/professional-licensing/professional-corporations>

Q. *I want to be able to claim my Naturopathic Practitioner visits as health deductions. Why isn't this included in the Regulation?*

A. Claims regarding health deductions are not addressed through professional regulatory legislation. Instead, it is the Canada Revenue Agency that is responsible for this. Their policy is to only permit receipts from professions "authorized" by the jurisdiction to practice.

The Department of Health and Social Services provides the Canada Revenue Agency with periodic updates as to which professions are regulated in the NWT. Once naturopathic practitioners become regulated under the *Health and Social Services Professions Act*, their service fees should become tax deductible.

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Q. *I want to be able to order publically-funded tests and offer other insured services. Why isn't this included in the Regulation?*

A. It is important to clarify that the ability to order test results or have the costs for these tests covered by public funds will not be addressed in the Naturopathic Profession Regulation.

Professional regulatory legislation establishes the standards that apply to individuals who wish to be licensed in the NWT and use a protected title. A Scope of Practice under a Regulation lists the services a Naturopathic Practitioner could provide, but it does not grant any privileges in a health care centre or hospital (something that is required to order lab work) and does not address the costs or payments associated with these services.

TIMELINE

Q. *When will the future Regulation be drafted? When will it come into force?*

A. Depending on feedback received through consultation, the Department of Health and Social Services expects to have the Regulation drafted by the end of 2016. However, the Regulation will not come into force until 2017, to allow for consequential amendments to other affected Acts.

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If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at 1-855-846-9601.
Si vous voulez ces renseignements dans une autre langue officielle, communiquez avec nous au 1-855-846-9601.