



Health
Canada

Health Products
and Food Branch

Santé
Canada

Direction générale des produits
de santé et des aliments

February 2, 2026

Dear Stakeholder:

**RE: Comprehensive Expenditure Review – Health Canada,
Natural Health Products, Non-Prescription Drugs and Biocides**

On November 4, 2025, the Government tabled Budget 2025: *Canada Strong*. The budget focused on long-term investments to strengthen Canada's economy, while also setting a path toward a more sustainable public service.

As part of efforts to achieve savings related to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review, and to ensure Canadians continue to benefit from essential health and safety oversight, Health Canada is modernizing and streamlining its programs and operations. This will involve focusing resources on core mandate and high-impact activities including review of prescription drugs, generics, and biologics.

This includes enabling a more modern, risk-based regulatory process, and recalibrating science and research activities to better align them with the department's regulatory and policy mandates.

As always, Health Canada's work will be guided by science and evidence, and it will continue to fulfill its obligations under the *Food and Drugs Act*, the *Food and Drug Regulations*, the *Natural Health Product Regulations*, and the *Biocides Regulations*.

Recently, as part of the Red Tape Review, Health Canada committed to amending the *Natural Health Product Regulations* and the *Food and Drug Regulations* to reduce, and in some cases eliminate, the need for pre-market authorization where well-established standards (i.e. monographs) exist. Implementation will require regulatory, policy, systems, and process changes over the next three years. This should lead to a reduction in requests to issue and amend natural health product licences and also expedite market access for non-prescription drugs.

We recognize that you may have concerns about the impact of these changes on your members' business, specifically the timelines for the review of submissions as well as establishment and site licenses. As the department implements changes internally, it will make every effort to minimize the impact on services to regulated parties. We also remain committed to advancing the red tape review initiatives.

As you may expect, the department is entering a period of significant transition as it takes steps to rebalance budgets and stabilize both the workforce and the workload. Over the coming months, senior officials will be supporting employees through this

transition, and our teams will require time and space to navigate these changes. We appreciate your understanding and support during this period.

We are committed to keeping you apprised of progress as we implement changes to the program.

Sincerely,



Stephen Norman
Director General
Natural and Non-prescription Health
Products Directorate
Health Products and Food Branch
Health Canada



Kim Goddard
Director General
Health Product Compliance Directorate
Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch
Health Canada



Chris Rose
Acting Director General
Marketed Health Products Directorate
Health Products and Food Branch
Health Canada