



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-03237**

BY: **MR. BLAIKIE (ELMWOOD-TRANSCONA)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **PAM DAMOFF**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

PLAIN LANGUAGE LABELLING

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Plain Language Labelling (PLL) regulations currently apply to non-prescription drugs and came into force on June 13, 2017. These regulations aim to improve safe use of drugs by including a Canadian Drug Facts Table (CDFT) thereby making labels easier to read and understand, and reduce medication error incidents. By June 2021, all non-prescription drugs must be fully compliant with PLL regulations requirements which include the CDFT on the outer label.

Health Canada is proposing to align the labelling requirements of natural health products to those for non-prescription drugs, to provide a consistent consumer experience at the store, prevent medication errors, and better inform consumer decisions in the selection and safe use of these products.

The labelling proposal for natural health products will require essential risk information to be presented in a standardized format, with minimum font size and black-on-white contrast, making it easier to read, understand and compare with that for other similar self-care products, such as non-prescription drugs, on

store shelves. The use of plain language will also help ensure that information on labels can be easily understood by Canadians.

Health Canada appreciates the support received from consumers and patient safety groups on its labelling initiatives to date. Comments received have helped inform the development of the labelling proposal for natural health products, and the engagement with consumers and patient safety groups will continue as this policy is being finalized.

For more information on Health Canada's labelling initiative for natural health products and/or other initiatives underway to modernize the regulation of self-care products, please contact Health Canada's Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate at hc.self.care.products-produits.autosoins.sc@canada.ca.