

Canada's chain pharmacies support progress on NPS

TORONTO, September 21, 2006 –The Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores (CACDS) says the progress report on a National Pharmaceuticals Strategy (NPS) released today by the NPS Ministerial Task Force outlines a thoughtful approach to addressing the challenges within Canada's pharmaceutical care system to improve Canadians' health care. CACDS anticipates meaningful progress on these critical issues will be made in the next phase of its development.

Chain pharmacy has been keenly watching the evolution of the Strategy and we appreciate being kept informed of the progress.

As the report recognizes, pharmaceutical care is a vital component of health care yet presents governments with many challenges in ensuring health and safety, providing access and sustaining the system while maximizing health benefits for Canadians. Because of pharmacy's expertise in proper drug selection, appropriate dosage, preventing adverse drug reactions, patient compliance and other aspects of care that help to manage costs in the system, they play a significant role in addressing these challenges.

Chain pharmacy is encouraged to see that many steps to help improve the system will be implemented in the next phase of the policy development.

We are also pleased to see recognition that stakeholders need to be consulted in the process and CACDS looks forward to being fully engaged in the next phase.

CACDS is the voice of community pharmacy in Canada. Its 22 members represent traditional chain drug stores, including national, regional and independently owned and operated pharmacies, and grocery chains and mass merchandisers with pharmacies.

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