



## **Statement by Chair of the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors Dr. Mark Fontes, ND**

6 November 2019

Toronto, Ontario

The Chair of the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND), Dr. Mark Fontes, ND, today issued the following statement in response to recent media coverage of Cornwall city council's decision to provide funding to a local naturopathic doctor:

"The CAND applauds Cornwall city council's innovative approach to improving its downtown area and supports its decision to help fund improvements to a building that will house a new naturopathic clinic. Naturopathic medicine plays an important role in well-rounded, comprehensive health care. It is complementary to the care provided by physicians as evidenced by the increasing collaboration and co-management of patients by medical doctors (MDs) and naturopathic doctors (NDs). This decision will no doubt have a positive impact on the overall health and well-being of Cornwall residents.

"We are, however, disappointed to learn about criticisms of this funding decision published in the National Post and elsewhere, based on the assumption that Cornwall city council has not done its due diligence in reviewing the funding application and that councillors are somehow 'confused'. This patronizing and unsubstantiated narrative is not only false, it does a disservice to Cornwall's dedicated public servants and local residents who elected them.

"The CAND and our members have only ever been forthcoming about the services NDs provide and the comprehensive training they are required to complete in order to be registered to practice in Ontario, a province where naturopathic medicine is regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act – the same legislation that regulates MDs and nurses.

"It is irresponsible to consistently platform the opinions of select individuals with demonstrated bias against the naturopathic profession without bothering to seek comment from the CAND or our regional member organizations. We were not contacted by the National Post regarding this story. We strongly call on all outlets to engage in good faith health care reporting going forward by centering patient well-being first and foremost, rather than the inflammatory agendas of a vocal few."

For more information, please contact:

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