



The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy
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*The Honourable Maureen MacDonald
Minister of Health and Wellness
PO Box 488
Halifax, NS B3J 2R8*

By Fax: 902-424-0559

May 5, 2011.

Dear Minister MacDonald,

I am writing with concern about Bill 17.

I am the owner of The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, 526B East River Road, New Glasgow. Having been in business for 10 years now, I am deeply concerned about the passing of this bill, contrary to the popular opinion that it is "no big deal". The overhead encountered in running a pharmacy is not what it was 30 years ago.

I graduated from the College of Pharmacy 30 years ago and since then our professional fee has not changed significantly. Yet, cost of drugs, implementing computers with appropriate expensive software for drug information, patient counselling and drug interactions, and wages have risen exponentially. Where does a small business get the money to continue to run at current standards on such a small professional fee?

We are a profession who are looked to answer questions and support individuals health care concerns without asking for compensation of any sort. The public demands this now since we have done it for so long and third parties obviously do not recognize the value of this time that we spend with these individuals. The healing process is not just in dispensing a pill, it is the time spent with an individual to educate them on lifestyle and disease processes. The system clearly has recognized the need for dietary, physiotherapy, psychotherapy, grief counselling, massage therapy and many other forms of therapy, but what about paying pharmacists for their time, have we become obsolete and invaluable?

After working for 10 years 6 days a week, 52 weeks each year and only having 3 one week breaks, I am now very discouraged at thinking that if this bill passes, where will I find the money to hire a pharmacist and potentially free me up to market the services that I have to offer the public. Being a compounding pharmacist, I require time away from the store at times when I could call on doctors or offer information sessions to allow me to do this. And who pays me for this time.

I just had a customer come in to say "I thought you were a pharmacy that I could check my lottery ticket in".....is this what we have become? Look for any way to bring in money to fund our own services. We are a health professional, we deserve to be treated as one.

Respectfully,

Anne Marie Kember PhC.