

Who Does What in Naturopathic Medicine in British Columbia?

Naturopathic medicine in British Columbia is supported by a network of organizations that each play a unique role in advancing safe, effective, and accessible care. While our mandates differ, we work in parallel - and often in partnership - to support the profession, protect the public, and improve health outcomes.

This overview outlines the responsibilities of four key organizations:

- The **Ministry of Health, Government of British Columbia** – the system steward and policy-maker
- The **British Columbia Naturopathic Doctors (BCND)** – the professional association
- The **College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC (CCHPBC)** – the regulator
- The **Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM)** – the Canadian educational institution
- The **Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND)** – the national professional association

Each contributes to the development and sustainability of naturopathic medicine in BC. Understanding who does what helps ensure accountability, transparency, and alignment across the system.

Ministry of Health, Government of British Columbia

Policy and Health System Oversight

The BC Ministry of Health is responsible for the overall functioning of the healthcare system in British Columbia.

Key responsibilities:

- Develops and implements healthcare policy and legislation.
- Oversees provincial healthcare priorities, funding, and delivery systems.
- Manages regulatory frameworks, such as the Health Professions & Occupations Act.
- Engages with professional associations and colleges to inform health workforce planning and system design.
- Leads system-wide initiatives such as primary care transformation, mental health & addictions strategy, and pharmacare implementation.



The Ministry does not regulate individual practitioners but sets the legislative and policy context for healthcare delivery.

British Columbia Naturopathic Doctors (BCND)

The Professional Association

BCND is the provincial professional association representing naturopathic doctors in British Columbia.

Key responsibilities:

- Advocates for NDs with government, stakeholders, and the public.
- Promotes the profession's role in improving access to care.
- Provides member services, including continuing education, business resources, communications support and other perks.
- Offers guidance on professional practice and policy developments.
- Builds partnerships with other health associations and sectors to enhance the reputation of NDs across the health sector.

BCND does not regulate the profession.



College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC (CCHPBC)

The Regulator

CCHPBC is the statutory regulatory body for naturopathic doctors and other complementary health professionals under BC's Health Professions Act at present and, when enacted, the Health Professions & Occupations Act.

Key responsibilities:

- Ensures public safety through regulatory oversight.
- Sets and enforces standards of practice, conduct, and ethics.
- Issues licences and renewals for registrants.
- Investigates complaints and administers discipline.
- Determines scope-related policies, such as prescribing and certification requirements.

The College operates independently from BCND and its chief mandate is to protect the public.



Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM)

Education and Research

CCNM is the accredited post-secondary institution responsible for training naturopathic doctors in Canada. It operates campuses in Toronto and Vancouver (Boucher Campus).

Key responsibilities:

- Delivers the four-year Doctor of Naturopathy program (ND), which includes clinical education and board exam preparation.
- Conducts and supports research in naturopathic and integrative medicine.
- Offers continuing education and residency opportunities for NDs.
- Collaborates with the profession and stakeholders to support evidence-informed practice.

CCNM is not involved in professional regulation or advocacy.



Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND)

The National Professional Association

CAND is the national association representing naturopathic doctors across Canada.

Key responsibilities:

- Advocates federally for the naturopathic profession.
- Promotes national public awareness and understanding of naturopathic medicine.
- Provides member benefits to NDs across the country.
- Engages with stakeholders, policy-makers, and other professions on pan-Canadian issues affecting the profession.
- Supports provincial associations like BCND through collaboration and shared resources.

CAND does not regulate the profession or provide clinical education.

