

NATUROPATHIC REGULATION IN CANADA: CURRENT STATE



Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are regulated in most provinces and territories, with scope of practice set through provincial legislation. The level of authority varies significantly across the country.

WHAT'S CONSISTENT ACROSS REGULATED PROVINCES:

- 'Naturopath' and 'Naturopathic Doctor' are protected titles restricted to regulated practitioners
- CNME-accredited education required for registration
- Approved licensing examinations
- Standards for clinical competence and safety
- Defined authorization for restricted acts

WHERE SCOPE DIFFERS

- **Prescribing rights** (broad in some provinces, limited or absent in others)
- **Laboratory authority** (from broad access to limited panels)
- **Procedures** (e.g., injections, IV therapy, minor surgery — certified or fully authorized depending on jurisdiction)
- **Diagnostic imaging** (authorized in a few provinces; restricted in most)

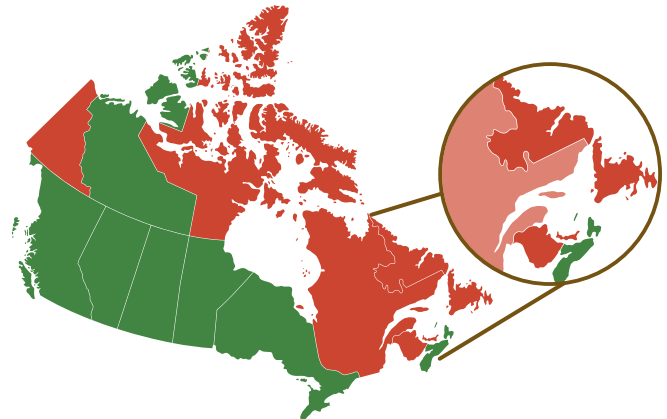
NATIONAL TRENDS

- Movement toward **competency-based scopes** aligned with training
- Increased **harmonization** of lab access, procedures, and prescribing models
- Ongoing **modernization of older legislation**
- Active engagement in **unregulated provinces** to establish statutory frameworks
- Stronger alignment with **health-system modernization** and team-based care

UNREGULATED PROVINCES/TERRITORIES

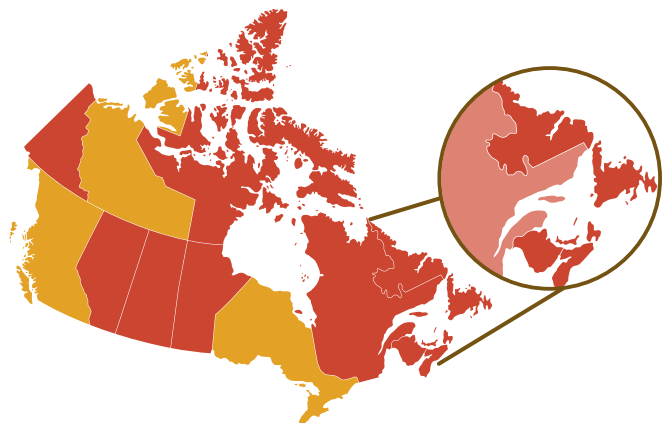
Naturopathic doctors maintain professional standards through accredited education, approved licensing examinations, association membership, and adherence to safety and insurance requirements. Regulatory pathways are currently being explored in several regions.

REGULATION STATUS



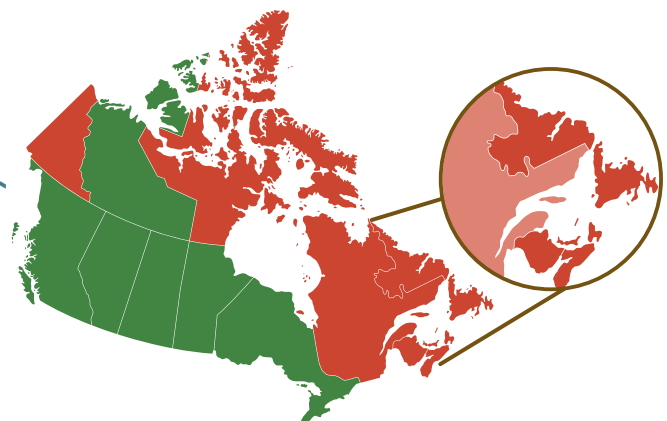
- NDs are regulated; the terms 'naturopath' and 'naturopathic doctor' are **protected** titles
- NDs are not regulated; the term 'naturopath' and 'naturopathic doctor' are **not** protected

ACCESS TO PRESCRIBING



- NDs have access to the restricted act of prescribing
- NDs do not have access at this time

ACCESS TO LABS/IMAGING



- NDs have access
- NDs do not have access at this time

EDUCATION & TRAINING: NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS IN NORTH AMERICA



A STANDARDIZED, ACCREDITED MEDICAL EDUCATION

All regulated provinces require graduation from an **accredited naturopathic medical program**. These programs deliver a **four-year advanced** curriculum designed to prepare graduates for safe primary and adjunctive care.

ACADEMIC CLINICAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- **Minimum four academic years** of training after completion of a bachelor's degree with appropriate medical prerequisites
- **Biomedical sciences:** anatomy, physiology, pathology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry
- **Clinical sciences:** physical examination, clinical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, lab interpretation, pharmacology
- **Therapeutic disciplines:** clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, lifestyle counselling, physical medicine, and health promotion
- **Professional competencies:** ethics, documentation, practice standards, interprofessional collaboration
- **Supervised patient care** in accredited teaching clinics

LICENSING EXAMINATIONS:

To enter practice in regulated Canadian provinces, graduates must successfully complete **approved licensing examinations** that assess:

- Biomedical knowledge
- Diagnostic skills
- Clinical judgment
- Safe and effective patient management
- Jurisprudence and Ethical Conduct

All jurisdictions with appropriate scope require **additional certifications** for enhanced procedural authority (e.g., prescribing, IV therapy, minor surgery).

This standardized, accredited training supports:

- Diagnostic authority
- Laboratory ordering and interpretation
- Prescribing (where authorized)
- Injection and IV therapy
- Minor procedures
- Chronic disease management
- Preventive and lifestyle-based care

Naturopathic doctors across Canada enter practice through a **uniform, accredited, competency-based training pathway** that supports safe, responsible, and modern scope of practice in regulated jurisdictions.



**4-YEAR
DOCTORAL PROGRAM**
ND MEDICAL
POST-GRADUATE DEGREE



**4,100+
TRAINING HOURS**
BIOMEDICAL + CLINICAL
EDUCATION



**1,200+
CLINICAL HOURS**
SUPERVISED
PATIENT CARE



**NATIONAL
ACCREDITATION**
CNME-ACCREDITED,
COMPETENCY-ASSESSED

CONNECT WITH THE CAND

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