

**For Immediate Release  
June 16, 2008**

**Kwan and Dix congratulate TCM professionals winning battle on Bill C-51**

**VICTORIA** – BC NDP MLAs Jenny Kwan and Adrian Dix are delighted to hear that federal Health Minister Tony Clement has admitted that his attempt to regulate natural health products and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) under the same rules as pharmaceutical drugs was a mistake.

In a recent media interview Clement admitted that it was a mistake not to create a separate category under the law for natural health and traditional Chinese medicines. The government is now proposing to insert a definition of natural health products into the Food and Drugs Act that recognizes that they're distinct from foods and drugs under the law.

BC NDP Health Critic Adrian Dix, who has spoken out on this issue and wrote to Minister Clement, said he has been bringing petitions to local businesses. "This is great news. I was planning to host some community hearing on this controversial Bill, but now it looks like we don't have to."

Jenny Kwan, MLA for Vancouver –Mount Pleasant, congratulated the excellent work of TCM professionals. "The original Bill would have seriously affected the TCM industry across Canada. It is wonderful that our BC professionals have launched such a strong and effective campaign that help changed the position of the federal Health Minister."

Kwan helped kick start BC TCM campaign in May, with a bilingual handbill and petition opposing the Bill. A group of TCM practitioners and educators involved in the campaign also established the Coalition Against Bill C-51.

Minister Clement has also acknowledged that the legislation tabled in April needs further clarification regarding the powers of inspectors to enter health-food stores and seize their products.

Kwan said this is another major concern raised by TCM professionals and the community. "It is good that the government recognized this problem, but it is crucial that we continue monitoring how Bill C-51 will be amended to address this concern."

The Coalition Against Bill C-51 is a working group organized by TCM practitioners, educators and supporters and currently has the support of 7 TCM professional associations.