Dear Sir or Madam,

**A New Perspective in a Failing Health Care System**

**From the Canadian employee perspective:**

Access to the quality health care that Canadians have come to expect is no longer available. The system is broken and out-dated.

There is little being done to prevent long term and chronic conditions which are growing to epidemic proportions across the country. The emphasis on treating the most dire, as doctors and hospitals are at their limit.

The focus of the government is unnecessarily limited and lacking in foresight.

If Canadians are lucky enough to have coverage from their employer, it is often too narrow in scope and dollar value to make a substantial difference. As well, CRA will not allow certain designations to be considered a valid tax deduction.

**From the Insurance company perspective:**

Heart disease, cancer and diabetes are already prevalent in Canada, the cost burden has shifted to insurance companies and employers as they have to pick up the tab for more prescriptions, increased absenteeism, escalating plan costs and reduced profitability.

Prescription drug claims are increasing to manage chronic disease, anxiety and depression.

Short and long term disability claims are increasing.

Paramedical claims increase as employees search for a holistic approach, with diet being a critical, but often missing piece. It is also the piece that would have the greatest impact on reducing the **actual** drivers of claims costs.

Given the state of health care, this trend is most likely to get much worse.

Pressure on the profitability of employee benefits plans will be more scrutinized.

Renewal pricing related to client retention will be an increased factor as client shop the market to find what can add value and lower cost.

**From Canadian employers perspective**

The average Canadian is suffering the most, more unwell both physically and mentally. The cost to Canadian employers therefore, is reduced productivity, more time off, escalating costs of employee benefits plans due to excessive drug and disability usage, and less impactful paramedical services.

**From Our Perspective**

We are part of the solution — for all involved. The lack of good nutrition is at the root of many diseases. Dietary strategies can strengthen immunity, improve stress resilience, and mitigate the development and worsening of chronic diseases like CVD, diabetes, cancer. Nutritional education therefore, has a vital role to play in the management of these diseases.

By not recognizing the valid work of CANNP holistic nutritionists (a qualified, educated group of nutrition professionals), access and availability of support is limited at a time when Canadians need help the most. Different from dieticians, many wish a more holistic approach whereby the practitioner can evaluate, educate and assist with the specific nutritional needs of the individual person.

Increasing access to holistic nutrition advice should not be viewed as an increase in spending rather as a long term investment in the overall health of Canadians and an easing of the health care burden with a focus on preventative measures.

We respectively request that the government recognize the services of valid NNCP’s (Natural Nutritional -Clinical Practitioners) as a valid tax deduction within the parameters of the CRA.

