# Editorial: Spring 2023: Canadian NDs and Environmental Leadership

As I write this letter on a late February afternoon in Ottawa, we've

just been told that the Rideau canal skateway, the world's largest

outdoor skating rink, will not open this year at all, the first time

since 1970. As one of the coldest national capitals anywhere in

the world, this has been a wake-up call for people of the city and

our various levels of government. In a very odd moment of dis-

sonance, however, I noticed that our annual Winterlude festival

was sponsored by a natural gas producer, with the argument that

While the non-opening of an open-air skating rink (no mat-

ter how large) during a winter festival may seem like a minor

event in our warming global environment, there is no doubt that

our winters across Canada are becoming shorter, wetter, and

with more severe storms of various kinds. Coming on the heels

its product does not actually contribute to climate change.

Marianne Trevorrow, 1 MA, ND

initiatives and consider getting involved with one of the regional committees or applying for the next Advocacy and Mobilization Program (AMP) cohort, which will be starting later this year. Like the Park Rx program, these projects are entirely congruent with our philosophy of the link between the individual and the planetary, and they are another way we can show up for our communities and, with like-minded healthcare colleagues, offer a trusted voice. It's also a way to not feel isolated, wondering what to do or where to start, a common feeling articulated by many of the participants.

This edition leads off with a World Naturopathic Federation (WNF) sponsored interim report on a living systematic review of natural health products (NHPs) for the prevention and/ or treatment of COVID-19. As the authors point out, there is increasing interest in research in this area, particularly in NHP therapeutics for prevention and adjunctive COVID-19 treatment. However, there is a need for more consistent outcome reporting before findings can be reported with reasonable evidence quality.

Our other published study for this edition is a cross-sectional analysis of Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM) graduate retention, the first to consider this question in the Canadian environment. After surveying targeted cohorts from both Toronto and Vancouver campuses between 1997 and 2020, they found retention rates closely correlate with other regulated health professions 2 to 3 years post-graduation. They also found that most graduates held registration in the province of their program, and that where prescriptive authority was available as an optional certification, a large majority of graduates held that certification. It will be interesting to see what conversations their findings elicit on this topic in ND leadership and at the association level and whether this will encourage more studies about long-term professional development and retention.

With this edition, we say goodbye to several editorial board members, who have moved onto other professional roles, and I want to thank them for their contributions to our continual improvement here at *CANDJ*. In particular, I want to recognize the

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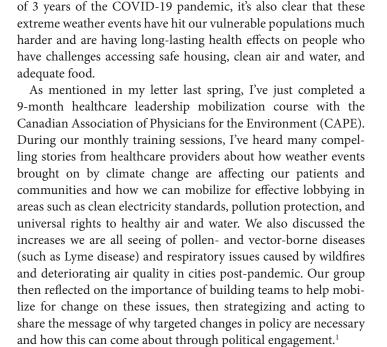
With the first cohort of this project recently wrapped up, I would

encourage members to have a look at some of CAPE's current

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efforts of our retiring board member Jacob Schorr, ND FABNO, who was one of the original members of the *Vital Link* review board, along with myself, Iva Lloyd (then EIC), and Paul Saunders, back in 2009. At the time, Jacob was also an editor at the *Natural Medicine Journal* and *Naturopathic Doctor News and Review*, and I remember many spirited conversations over the years about the state of naturopathic medical publications and what could be done to create stronger and more science-based standards, while maintaining our respect for traditional and complementary medicines (T&CM) in their cultural contexts. Now 14 years later, I would argue that we are well along with seeing those ideas come to fruition in this publication, which itself continues to grow and evolve.

We wish Jacob a happy and healthy retirement; and hope everyone enjoys this current edition.

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I have read and understood the *CAND Journal*'s policy on conflicts of interest and declare that I have none.

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