

Bill C-51 and the SPP

Not a healthy choice for Canada



The Harper government's new food and drug, and consumer safety legislation – bills C-51 and C-52 – was developed with the aim of copying U.S.-style policies in Canada in response to corporate pressure – not public concerns.

- Harper's Food and Drug Act amendments (Bill C-51) were drafted in cooperation with U.S. regulators based on a Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) promise last August to share "best practices" and create common North American environmental and health policies.
- In February 2007, a corporate advisory group to the SPP called for "a new North American Regulatory Cooperation Framework in 2007," that would ensure "consistent application of standards and regulatory requirements within each country." The public was not consulted.
- Bill C-51 would introduce U.S.-style "progressive licensing" for new pharmaceutical products in Canada. This means relying on corporate information to fast-track the drug approval process, and then letting drug companies keep track of the impact on our health.
- Progressive licensing means the government will "manage the damage after the fact, but they refuse to protect us from getting those problems in the first place," according to Michael McBane of the Canadian Health Coalition.
- A recent study from *The New England Journal of Medicine* found that fast-tracking drugs to market in the United States has led to significantly more call-backs for safety reasons.

According to an Environics Poll conducted in April, **87%** of Canadians agree that Canada should maintain the ability to set its own independent environmental, health and safety standards, even if this might reduce cross-border trade opportunities with the United States. With Bill C-51, Prime Minister Harper is obviously more concerned with corporate and U.S. priorities than the health and safety of Canadians.



WARNING:
C-51 LIKELY TO CAUSE
UNNECESSARY HARM

For more information on the Security and Prosperity Partnership's regulatory agenda for Canada, please visit Canadians.org or contact us at 1-800-387-7177.