
From: Dorothy Stephens

Thu, Feb 28, 9:28 AM

to Marie-Claude.Bibeau, doug.eyolfson

Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis) is an insect-borne tropical disease that begins with flu-like symptoms and can end with heart failure for 20-30% of those infected. There are pharmaceutical treatments available which can reduce symptoms (and have up to a 90% cure rate for infants and young children). But recently, Global Affairs Canada allocated \$350,000 to send volunteer homeopathic practitioners to Honduras to provide homeopathic "treatments".

Perhaps the Global Affairs staff mean well. Perhaps they believe there is some link between the group they are funding and the (well-known effective humanitarian organisation) Doctors without Borders. But homeopathy is pure quackery — there is not even a feasible mechanism for homeopathic "medicines" to work, because they contain no active ingredients.

This is clearly a misuse of our tax-supported international aid money. Put an end to government support of pseudo-scientific quackery NOW!

Dorothy Stephens
30 West Avenue
Winnipeg
R3K 0E6

From: laurentco

Sent: February-28-19 3:10 PM

To: Bibeau, Marie-Claude - Députée; Vandal, Dan - M.P.

Subject: No homeopathy for Honduras

Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis) is an insect-borne tropical disease that begins with flu-like symptoms and can end with heart failure for 20-30% of those infected. There are pharmaceutical treatments available which can reduce symptoms (and have up to a 90% cure rate for infants and young children). But recently, Global Affairs Canada allocated \$350,000 to send volunteer homeopathic practitioners to Honduras to provide homeopathic "treatments". Perhaps the Global Affairs staff mean well. Perhaps they believe there is some link between the group they are funding and the (well-known effective humanitarian organisation) Doctors without Borders. But homeopathy is pure quackery — there is not even a feasible mechanism for homeopathic "medicines" to work, because they contain no active ingredients.

The last thing the Honduran people need is for us to send them taxpayer-funded snake oil when there are real and effective treatments. Alternative medicine treatments have become very fashionable in recent years with between the cults of celebrity and the internet via social media linking to websites full of bogus medical advice. People become seduced by what appears to the layperson to be plausible claims that their bogus, “alternative” product offers, and let's be clear here. They really only want you to buy their product rather than real scientifically proven, evidence-based treatment or medication.

As a registered nurse who works in an ER setting, I see the negative after-effects of following these charlatans. Surely you are aware of the most egregious examples such as the Alberta couple, David and Collet Stephan case whose young son Ezekiel died of meningitis because his parents only sought real medical treatment after their son was beyond saving. I've seen many such instances that would never reach the media because the damage did not lead to death. That doesn't mean that no harm was done to these individuals, but they finally sought real medical help before they were too far gone. An untreated ear infection can lead to deafness. An unvaccinated person who gets the mumps can become sterile.

Homeopathy is perhaps the worst of all these alt-med “treatments. Some herbal treatments, for example, might have some small beneficial effect. Indeed they might have once been the go-to treatment until newer more effective ones were found. The problem with homeopathy is that it literally cannot work because it literally contains no active medicinal ingredients. By their own admission, homeopaths say that their “medicine” is just water. Nobody will argue that water is not essential to life, but it won't cure a viral disease.

From: Dan.Vandal@parl.gc.ca <Dan.Vandal@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: March 7, 2019 3:36 PM
To: laurentco
Subject: RE: No homeopathy for Honduras

Thank you for your email regarding the funding of homeopathic practitioners in Honduras.

Currently, the only partnership International Development Canada has which involves homeopaths is with Terre Sans Frontières, a project that was funded and implemented by the former government in early 2015. The project in Honduras is in its last year of operation, with a budget of around \$55 000 for 2019-2020.

It is important to reiterate that this is the only partnership involving homeopaths. It is also worth mentioning that this organization also collaborates with local actors by also providing dentists and optometrists to the people of Honduras.

I want to assure you that this project would not get funded under Canada's new international assistance policy which was launched in June 2017. If you wish to learn more regarding our current priorities in international assistance, you may do so here: https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/index.aspx?lang=eng

Thank you again for writing to me on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dan Vandal