



## News Release

### **Fytokem Products Inc. Files Patent Application for Fytolastin™ Anti-Aging, Elastase Inhibiting Compounds**

SASKATOON, October 18, 2001 --- Fytokem Products Inc. (CDNX: FYT), a Canadian life sciences company engaged in the discovery and commercialization of therapeutic plant extracts and bioactive molecules for the personal care, nutraceutical, pharmaceutical and bio-industrial industries, today announced it has submitted a patent application to the Canadian Patent Office regarding the activity and use of plant-based inhibitors of the elastase enzyme.

“This newly submitted patent application provides valuable intellectual property protection for this important group of compounds,” said Art Hesje, President and Chief Executive Officer of Fytokem. “The patent application is representative of our continued efforts to discover new, useful products and to build a secure proprietary position for all of our commercially significant bioactive discoveries.” Fytokem now has a total of four patents pending in major jurisdictions throughout the world, covering a range of bioactive plant extracts and their constituents.

The Fytolastin™ line of products covered in the patent application are potent natural extracts that inhibit the activity of the elastase enzyme. They may be included in a range of therapeutic skin products including moisturizers, skin protectants, after-sun products, as well as anti-aging and anti-wrinkling products that are designed to protect against the ravages of time and exposure to the elements such as the sun, wind, and other irritants.

#### About Fytolastin™ and anti Aging

Increased activity of the elastase enzyme causes tissue injury and damage resulting in skin problems such as aging, wrinkling, and inflammation, as well as other conditions, especially pulmonary and inflammatory disease such as emphysema and cystic fibrosis. Dryness, aging and irritation of the skin caused by UV exposure, environmental stress, and numerous other factors that can cause an increase in elastase activity. Elastase inhibitors have shown potential in skin care products, as well as several other areas currently under investigation.

Unlike cosmetics or general skincare products that mask the signs of aging, cosmeceuticals encompassing Fytolastin™ can provide genuine therapeutic benefits by influencing the activity of the enzyme which directly causes wrinkling and sagging of the skin. Elastase inhibitors are attractive to the personal care market because of their ability to prevent wrinkling and other damaging effects from occurring in the skin.

Fytolastin™ is being evaluated for inclusion in a line of skincare products developed by Calgary plastic surgeon, Dr. Wayne Perron. "I have enjoyed working with Fytokem's existing products and have found they are quite effective," commented Dr. Perron. He continued, "Based on my experience with Fytokem's other products, and the research I've seen on Fytolastin™, it is a very promising product with broad application in the anti-aging skin care market. I look forward to further evaluation of Fytolastin™ and its potential applications."

About Fytokem Products Inc.

Fytokem Products Inc. is a Canadian life sciences company engaged in the discovery and commercialization of novel *Function-Certified™* plant-based substances -- extracts, phytochemicals and bioactive molecules -- for use as ingredients in personal care, nutraceutical, pharmaceutical and bio-industrial products, both domestically and internationally. Fytokem has applied for several scientific patents, covering a range of bioactive molecules and therapeutic activities.

*The Canadian Venture Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved the information herein contained.*

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