



Spa industry official calls for more regulation in Saskatchewan

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A Regina spa owner, who is also the director of the Leading Spas of Canada Association, is calling for more oversight of the industry by the province.

Patricia Cassell-Ogilvie, owner of Envogue Spa, says that safety standards are not being enforced strongly enough in Saskatchewan spas.

“Anyone who wants to open a spa,” she says, “you go down and you apply for a business license, you get a building and you open your doors. There is no training. No one watching over you to make sure you’re doing things correctly.”

Staph infections, Hepatitis C and skin rashes are all possible dangers found in spas that don’t follow the proper safety standards, experts say.

Cassell-Ogilvie uses as an example the pedicure chair with its enticing hot footbaths.

“Those chairs, if they’re not cleaned properly, hold all sorts of terrible bacteria. Mary comes in, puts her foot in the water. She shaved earlier, and she has a little cut. Bacteria can get in there, and she may become infected.”

Spas are not regulated in this province, nor has there been any sign of movement towards regulation. Only establishments that conduct invasive procedures such as piercings are inspected.

But other provinces have started to regulate the spa industry. In 2010, Ontario created a set of safety

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