

Ministry of Health

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and Minister of Health

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March 15, 2022

Richard Guo Qing Dong
President

College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario
55 Commerce Valley Drive West, Suite 705
Thornhill ON L3T 7V9

Dear Mr. Dong:

Our government is committed to reducing barriers for individuals seeking to practice their chosen profession in Ontario and ensuring access to important health services like traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and acupuncture.

I am writing to notify you that in response to concerns raised by TCM practitioners, acupuncturists, and their patients about Schedule 5 of Bill 88, *Working for Workers Act*, 2022 we have removed it from Bill 88. We are committed to further consultation with practitioners and patients before making any changes to the regulatory oversight for TCM practitioners and acupuncturists.

We have heard concerns from individuals seeking to register with the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO) that the lack of a Chinese language entry to practice exam presents an undue barrier to entry.

To address this barrier and support access to qualified and competent TCM practitioners and acupuncturists, I am requesting that the CTCMPAO work with the Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists to make the pan-Canadian Entry-level examinations in TCM and Acupuncture available in Chinese for interested Ontario applicants by Fall 2022.

I understand that there may be challenges with implementing a Chinese-language exam on these timelines and I encourage you to work with ministry staff to identify what support you might need.

I would also like to reinforce the continued need to ensure the timely registration of applicants who meet the College's entry-to-practice requirements, including addressing any backlog in the registration of applicants who wrote the pan-Canadian Entry-level examinations in October of 2021. Thank you for your work on this front.

If you have any further questions about this letter, please contact Sean Court, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Planning and French Language Services Division at sean.court@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Elliott".

Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Mr. Sean Court, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Ms. Ann Zeng, College Registrar and CEO
College Council Members