

Highlights of the 2nd Meeting of the Transitional Council

The Transitional Council held its 2nd meeting on October 21, 2008. Thirty-six people from the public and TCM community observed the proceedings.

During the meeting, the Transitional Council made the following decisions:

1. Approved Work Plan for 2008-2010

The approved work plan aimed at completing development and legal drafting of the Registration and Professional Misconduct Regulations for submission to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) before the terms of appointment of the Transitional Council and of the Registrar expire in 2010. Subject to accomplishing all planned activities on time and Government approval of the draft regulations, the College could start registration of members in 2011.

Council further directed the Registrar and the Finance Committee to prepare a budget to implement the work plan. The budget would be submitted to MOHLTC to obtain loans to pay for the activities.

2. Participation in Inter-provincial Drafting of TCM Practice Competencies

To avoid duplication and to pool resources, the College would work with the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTCMA-BC) and counterparts in other provinces in the drafting of TCM practice competencies. The Executive Committee was asked to recommend appointment of a member to represent the Transitional Council to the Project Planning/Management Committee and to recommend criteria for the appointment of TCM practitioners to participate in the drafting of competencies with practitioners from other province(s).

3. Organization of Workshops to Validate Entry-to-Practice Competencies for Acupuncturists

Approval was given to organize three workshop sessions on November 17, 18 and 19, 2008 for practitioners to review and validate the draft competencies for acupuncturists developed jointly by British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec. The workshop sessions would be led by the project consultant, David Cane of Catalysis Consulting and would be held in London, Toronto and Ottawa. Individuals who could not take part in person could request survey questionnaires from the Registrar to provide input in writing.

Details of the validation workshops and other processes would be announced on the Transitional Council website.

4. Mutual Recognition (MRA) Meeting

The federal, provincial and territorial governments are working to revise Chapter 7 (Labour Mobility) of the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT). As a regulator, the Transitional Council is expected to comply so that “any worker certified for an occupation by a regulatory authority of one province or territory shall be recognized as qualified to practice that occupation by all other provinces and territories” by August 2009.

The Transitional Council appointed Joanne Pritchard-Sobhani to accompany the Registrar to represent the Transitional Council at the November 6-7, 2008 MRA meeting in Montreal.

5. *Communications Committee Terms of Reference*

The Communications Committee is a by-law committee accountable to the Transitional Council. It works collaboratively with the Registrar and designated staff/consultant to develop communication plans and major initiatives.

6. *Publication of College Newsletter*

The Transitional Council approved publication of a newsletter as the official communication vehicle of the College.

7. *Appointment of Chairs of Committees*

The Transitional Council approved appointment of the following persons to chair statutory and by-law committees:

Joanne Pritchard-Sobhani	Chair, Registration Committee
Elizabeth Wilson	Chair, Professional Practices/Standards Committee
Ellen Hanna	Chair, Communications Committee
David Bai	Chair, Finance Committee

8. *Negotiation of MOU and Loan Agreement with MOHLTC*

The Transitional Council authorized the Registrar and legal counsel to present to representatives of the Ministry on identified issues and acceptable principles respecting the draft MOU and loan agreement between the Transitional Council and MOHLTC.

During the meeting, the Transitional Council also discussed:

- Member representation to external meetings;
- Canadian Medical Association's opposition to the Council of Natural Medicine College of Canada's application for trademark registration of the "Dr. TCM" title;
- Ryerson University's application to the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration for funding to develop a "Bridge Program" for internationally educated TCM practitioners.