

Highlights of the 4th Meeting of the Transitional Council

The transitional Council held its 4th meeting on May 5, 2009. Twenty-six members of the public and the TCM community observed the proceedings.

President's Message

The President advised that the transitional Council is working diligently on drafting of the Registration and Professional Misconduct Regulations. Committees, the Registrar and her staff are discussing, researching, analyzing feedback from practitioners and stakeholders to look for practical policy solutions.

He reminded practitioners to visit the transitional Council website: www.ctcmpao.on.ca for accurate and up-to-date information or call the Registrar's office should they have questions or concerns.

During the meeting, the transitional Council made the following key decisions:

Election of Officers and Committee Members

The transitional Council voted that in lieu of a formal election, the President, Vice-President and Executive Committee members would be acclaimed to their current positions for 2009 until the 2010 election. This is to ensure continuity and that ongoing work will not be disrupted.

Appointment of Representative to the Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies for Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CARB)

Joanne Pritchard-Sobhani was unanimously appointed to represent the Transitional Council at future CARB meetings.

Entry-Level Occupational Competencies for Acupuncturists in Canada

The Transitional Council approved in principle the February 1, 2009 *Entry-Level Occupational Competencies for Acupuncturists in Canada*. This would allow the Council to begin the process of developing performance indicators for the assessment of Acupuncturists in Ontario.

To that end, the Transitional Council also approved the recruitment of a consultant and the appointment of a working group to develop the indicators. The working group will be comprised of Council members and practitioners, who may or may not be Council members. The draft will then be considered by Council.

Response to Standards Council of Canada (SCC)

The SCC had contacted the Transitional Council requesting feedback on the development of a new international standard on TCM initiated by the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The Transitional Council decided to advise the SCC of the statutory and constitutional role assigned to professional regulatory bodies across Canada in the setting of educational, entry and practice standards in TCM and acupuncture. The Transitional

Council and CARB would be interested in working together with the SCC in a mutually advantageous fashion on this international initiative.

The Transitional Council also received important informational matters:

Progress on Regulations Development

The Registration and Professional Practice/Standards Committees reported on progress made on drafting of the Registration and Professional Misconduct Regulations. Both Committees are undertaking research and analysis of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regulation templates, regulations of other health regulatory colleges in Ontario and input of practitioners and associations. Issues relating to grandparenting, language requirements, professional practices are being examined.

Both Committees plan to complete initial drafting of the regulations in the summer.

Regulated Health Professions Amendment Act, 2009 (Bill 141)

The Transitional Council noted the *Regulated Health Professions Amendment Act, 2009* received Royal Assent on April 23, 2009. The Act amends the *Health Professions Procedural Code* of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. The legislation's main focus is to:

- permit investigators acting under section 76 of the Code to make reasonable inquiries of any person, including the member who is the subject of the investigation, and require a member of a health college to cooperate fully with an investigator; and
- permit health colleges to make regulations providing for the direct observation of members in their practices.

Inter-Professional Collaboration

The College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) invited the transitional Council to comment on their draft *Standards* for the performance of acupuncture by Occupational Therapists in Ontario. Before providing comments, the transitional Council will invite COTO to clarify how the standards relate to the Occupational Therapists' scope of practice.