

Highlights of the 6th Meeting of the Transitional Council

The transitional Council held its 6th meeting on August 31, 2009. Twenty-nine members of the public and the TCM community observed the proceedings.

Presentation by the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

The Council is deeply appreciative of Ms. Deborah Worrada, Registrar of the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO), for her presentation on CMTO's policies on the use of acupuncture by Registered Massage Therapists (RMT) and on dual registration. We now understand that according to CMTO policy, an RMT can only perform acupuncture within the scope of practice of massage therapy and must have completed an education program approved by the CMTO. Invoicing will be for massage therapy. Where an RMT is also registered with another health college, the patient must be advised if he/she is receiving the service of an RMT or that of another health care service and separate records must be kept for each of the services provided to the patient.

Management Board of Cabinet (MBC) New Procurement Directive

Council related to the representative of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care that the new Procurement Directive, to be enforced retroactively, could significantly delay the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Project and the approved business plan of the transitional Council. To prepare for further discussion with the Ministry, the Registrar and the Finance Committee were tasked to develop, for consideration of Council, revisions to the business plan and budget and to develop procurement policies and procedures consistent to the MBC directive.

Progress on Regulations Development

The Executive Committee, Registration Committee and Professional Practice/Standards Committee reported significant headway made in developing general principles for registration, grandparenting and professional conduct. The meeting directed the Registrar and legal counsel to bring to the Ministry the working draft regulations for advice on whether the drafts are consistent to government policies.

The Professional Practice/Standards Committee advised it would develop policies/guidelines on advertising, conflict of interest, record-keeping, professional ethics, practice safety, inspection of practice, infection control etc. to support the regulations.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Project

In June, the transitional Council invited consultants to submit proposals to develop PLAR tools and processes for assessment of grandparenting applicants. Six consultant teams submitted proposals. Council decided that the Executive Committee be assigned the responsibility of considering the recommendations of the Selection Panel and moving forward with awarding the project to the selected consultant team. In tandem with the selection, the Registrar and her staff would prepare a budget for consideration of the Finance and Executive Committees to allow the project to proceed.

TCM Herbology Competency Profile

The meeting received a report on two working group sessions that took place on August 26, 2009 for associations' nominees and invited practitioners to provide inputs on the Canadian TCM Herbology Competency Profile. Completed surveys and

comments of participants were sent to British Columbia for data entry and analysis. The competencies developed will be a part of the TCM practitioner and acupuncturist profile.

The transitional Council is grateful to Ms. Yongchun Cai and Mr. Danny Li for volunteering their time and expertise to participate in the Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies for TCM practitioners/Acupuncturists' Project Committee to draft the competencies with members and practitioners from other provinces.

Audited Financial Statements

The transitional Council accepted the audited statement of expenditures for the year ended March 31, 2009 prepared by the auditors, KPMG.