



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine  
Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario

Ordre des praticiens en médecine traditionnelle  
chinoise et des acupuncteurs de l'Ontario

September 26, 2015

Good morning, Distinguished Guests, Scholars, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour and privilege as President of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario to welcome you to the WFAS, (World Federation of Acupuncture Society) International Acupuncture Conference 2015.

I would like to convey greetings on behalf of the “College” of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioners of Ontario, (CTCMPAO) to delegates attending this Conference in which the academic exchange, dissemination of knowledge and promotion of understanding and co-operation will ensure that practitioners globally continue to practice safely and ethically around the world.

I congratulate WFAS (146 member societies) and CMACC for their many years of championing the regulation of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine in Canada. As a result of years of dedication, tireless efforts and commitment, Acupuncture is regulated in the Provinces of Alberta, Quebec and Newfoundland. British Columbia and now Ontario regulates Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. Regulation in each Province represents historical milestones for Canada that continue to evolve and are changing the landscape for the delivery of health care services in Canada and more specifically Ontario.

I wish to speak about the regulation of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Ontario as it is the most profound and distinct regulation in Canada, as the first to recognize the TCM/Acupuncture profession, independent of and separate from Western medicine for which supervision of the profession by a physician is not required.

In Ontario, Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists are regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Acts, 1991 and the Traditional Chinese Medicine Act 2006, and the regulations that apply made under these Acts. The Traditional Chinese Medicine act was proclaimed or became law by the Ontario, Provincial Government on April 1, 2013.

It is important to understand that all regulated health care professions in the Province of Ontario and across Canada, are regulated by the Provincial Ministries of Health in each province. As such, regulation of the TCM and Acupuncture across Canada falls under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments and not the Federal Government and Federal Ministry of Health. The Provinces regulate the practice of TCM and Acupuncture, while the Federal Government regulates natural substances, including TCM herbal products (OTC's) and medical devices. The regulation of Acupuncture and TCM practice is a provincial, jurisdictional matter that is also different in each province.

As noted earlier, the RHPA, 1991 in Ontario is distinct and different from the other provinces, which is not new. The TCM Act, 2006 and the proclamation of this act is new and must comply with its umbrella legislation, the RHPA.

These acts established the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO) on April 1, 2013, making it accountable to the Provincial Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to regulate the practice of traditional Chinese Medicine in the interest of the public which can be found on our CTCMPAO website.

The law in Ontario requires that every practitioner in traditional Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture must be a registered member of CTCMPAO to practice TCM/Acupuncture and use the protected titles Acupuncturist or Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner.

CTCMPAO has registered over 3000 members since April 1, 2013 for which a majority registered in the Grandparent Class as TCM practitioners or Acupuncturists. This class was created to provide a window of opportunity for everyone who had a minimum of 5 years of TCM practice and or education prior to April 1, 2013. A transition period of 5 years was established for which the Grandparent Class were given time to complete the Prior Learning Assessment process by April 1, 2018 and transfer to the General Class. The College has approved and is currently moving forward with regulation for the Doctor of TCM in Ontario.

As President of CTCMPAO, I wish to congratulate all 3000 plus members who embraced regulation and are now successfully transitioning from the Grandparent Class to the General Class by completing the Prior Learning Assessment Process, (PLAR). CTCMPAO has the largest membership as a TCM/Acupuncture regulatory College in Canada. Ninety per cent of our Grandparent members who have completed the PLAR process have been successful. This includes members who practice with a language plan. What does this mean? It means that members who identified themselves as not having reasonable fluency have successfully transferred to the General Class without difficulty.

Today, we witness the dedication and commitment of the profession world - wide by attendance at this Conference in seeking academic exchange, understanding and collaboration.

I am sure this Conference will resonate, inspire and challenge each and every one in recognizing the true potential for growth and development of the TCM profession lies within each of us! We are the future of this profession as we carry this great TCM medical science and legacy forward.

Sincerely,



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President, CTCMPAO

