



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario

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

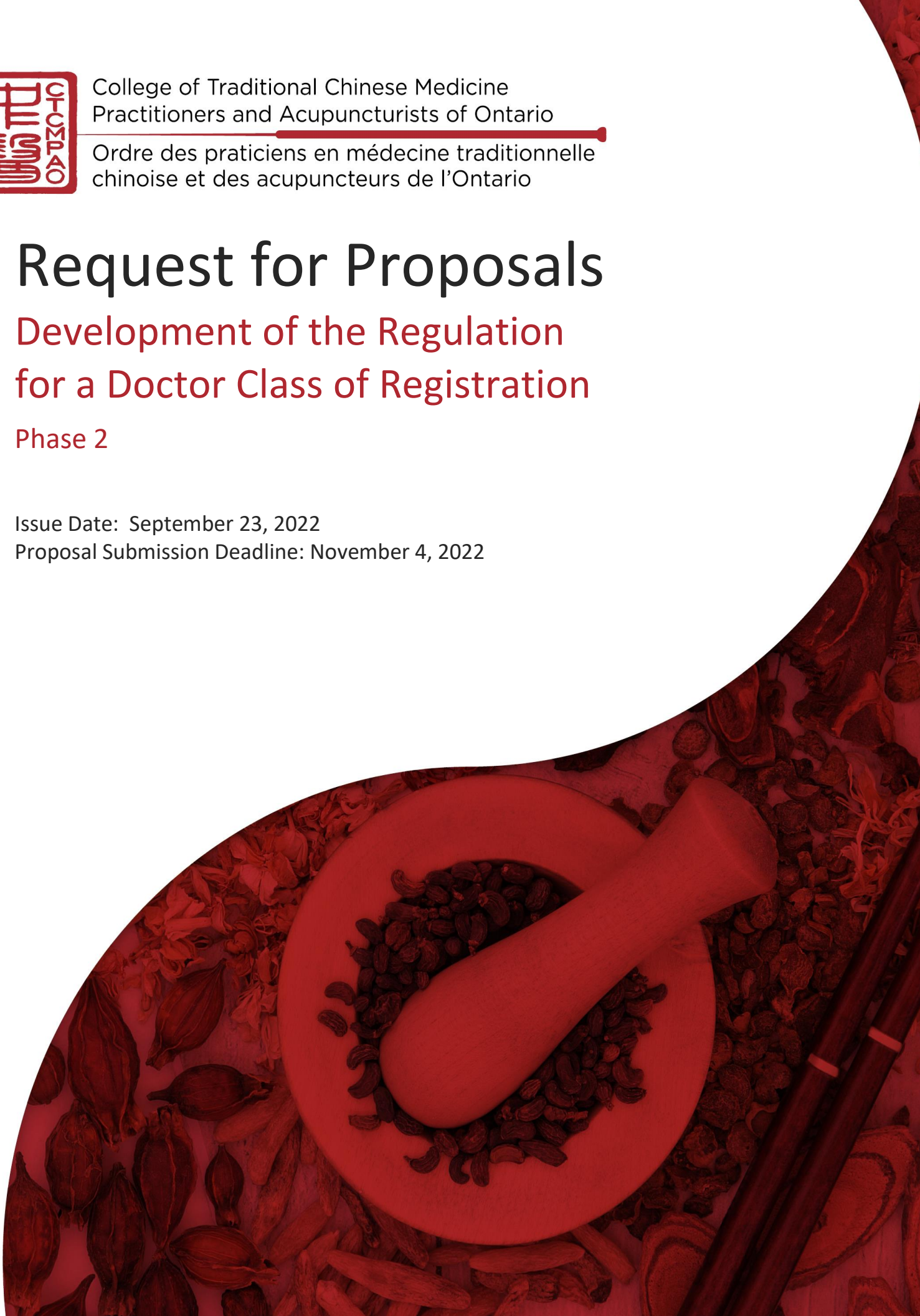
Request for Proposals

Development of the Regulation for a Doctor Class of Registration

Phase 2

Issue Date: September 23, 2022

Proposal Submission Deadline: November 4, 2022





1. INTRODUCTION

The College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (the “College”) is seeking an independent consultant to facilitate an amendment to the Registration Regulation (Ontario Regulation 27/13) to include a Doctor Class of registration for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners and/or Acupuncturists in Ontario.

The College was proclaimed on April 1, 2013 by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, now Ministry of Health (MOH), under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) and the Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, 2006 (TCM Act) as the regulatory body that regulates TCM practitioners and acupuncturists in Ontario. The mandate of the College is to protect the public interest. The College has approximately 2,700 registered members who are able to use protected titles and perform two authorized controlled acts: 1) performing a procedure on tissue below the dermis and below the surface of a mucous membrane for the purpose of performing acupuncture and 2) communicating a traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis identifying a body system disorder as the cause of a person’s symptoms using traditional Chinese medicine techniques. (TCM Act, c.27, s. 4).

The controlled acts are used within the scope of practice as: “The practice of traditional Chinese medicine is the assessment of body system disorders through traditional Chinese medicine techniques and treatment using traditional Chinese medicine to promote, maintain or restore health”. (TCM Act, c.27, s. 3)

Currently, the College has four classes of registration (General, Student, Inactive and Temporary) that are defined in the Registration Regulation of the TCM Act. Only registered members of this College are permitted to use the authorized titles and designations: Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner (R. TCMP) and Registered Acupuncturist (R. Ac). At the moment, there is no doctor class of registration for this profession and members of this College are not permitted to use the “doctor” title.

On December 30, 2016, section 18(1) of the TCM Act was proclaimed to permit TCM practitioners in Ontario to use the title “doctor” upon amendment of the Registration Regulation. The College is seeking a consultant to assist the College in establishing the required competencies for Doctor Title eligibility and a process to assess those competencies. Details can be found in Section 4, Project Requirement and Deliverables.

2. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

2.1 Submission of Proposal

To be eligible for consideration, Proponents must submit one signed Proposal marked “original” by email, submitted to registrar@ctcmpao.on.ca on or before **November 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. EST**. The College will not consider any Proposals received after the closing time. Proposal should be addressed to Ann Zeng, Registrar and CEO,

2.2 Questions and Enquiries

Proponents, who have read this Request for Proposals (RFP) and are interested in responding may direct



questions or request additional information in writing by email to Sean Cassman at registrar@ctcmpao.on.ca before the deadline for questions on **September 28, 2022**. All questions and enquiries will be recorded. Received questions and responses will be disseminated to all Proponents by email, prior to the Proposal submission deadline. The College is not responsible for any misunderstanding on the part of the Proponent and is under no obligation to provide additional information but, may do so at its sole discretion.

2.3 The College's Right to Amend, Supplement or Cancel RFP

The College, without liability, cost or penalty, may at any time cancel, amend or supplement this RFP. Any material amendments or supplements to the RFP will be communicated in a timely fashion to all Proponents. Any amendments or supplements made by any other party shall not be binding.

2.4 Disqualification of Proposals on Grounds of Faulty Submission

The College, without liability, cost or penalty, in its sole discretion, may disqualify any Proposal before the Proposal is fully evaluated if:

- i. It contains incorrect information;
- ii. It does not include all required elements as noted in this RFP;
- iii. The Proponent misrepresents any information provided in its Proposal;
- iv. The Proposal reveals a conflict of interest as per Section 6.3, Conflict of Interest; or
- v. The Proposal does not otherwise comply with the terms of the RFP.

2.5 Amending or Withdrawing Proposals Prior to Proposal Submission Deadline

At any time prior to the Proposal submission deadline, a Proponent may amend or withdraw a submitted Proposal. Any amendment must clearly indicate what part of the Proposal the amendment is intended to replace.

A notice of amendment or withdrawal must be sent prior to the Proposal submission deadline by email to Ann Zeng at registrar@ctcmpao.on.ca.

3. DEFINITIONS

Throughout this RFP, the following definitions apply:

“Contract” means the written agreement resulting from this RFP to be executed by the College and the Contractor.

“Contractor” means the successful Proponent to this RFP who enters into a written Contract with the College.

“Must” or “mandatory” means requirement that must be met in order for a Proposal to receive consideration.

“Proponent” means an individual or a company that submits, or intends to submit, a Proposal in response to this RFP.

“Request for Proposals” or “RFP” means the process described in this document.



“Should” or “desirable” means a requirement having a significant degree of importance to the objectives of the RFP.

4. PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND DELIVERABLES

4.1 Summary of the Project

The College is seeking an independent expert Consultant to work with the Doctor Title Working Group, the Registrar and CEO, and designated staff of the College to amend its Registration Regulation to include a Doctor Class of registration. When the TCM Act was proclaimed in 2006, section 33(2.1) of the RHPA provided a provision that allowed members of the College to use the “doctor” title if they held a certificate of registration that entitled them to do so. However, the College does not currently have a class of registration that allows members to use the “doctor” title.

The mandate of the College is to protect the public. The College has the obligation to ensure practitioners are properly trained and qualified to meet the competencies of this profession. The College will be required to define the requirements necessary for entry into the Doctor Class of registration.

When the Registration Regulation is amended, section 18(1) of the TCM Act will permit members in the Doctor Class of Registration Ontario to use the “doctor” title. Until the amendments have been passed, members of the College are not permitted to use the “doctor” title. Currently, members of this College are permitted to use the protected titles and designations, Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner (R. TCMP) and Registered Acupuncturists (R. Ac).

The Doctor Title Work Group, an ad-hoc committee of the Council is charged with conducting research, synthesizing information and making recommendations to Council in the development of the regulation to permit the use of the “doctor” title. This working group consists of three public Council members, three professional Council members and one non-Council professional member, who are supported by the Registrar and Policy Analyst. See Appendix A – Terms of Reference.

The project has been separated into three phases: (1) conduct an environmental scan, (2) define requirements for the doctor class and (3) draft the regulation amendments for submission to the MOHLTC.

Phase one of the project was completed in November, 2019 with the final report on the environmental scan being accepted by the Working Group. This report generated a number of recommendations which have been adopted into the project deliverables for phase two of the project (see section 4.3)

The College is currently seeking a Consultant to carry out phase two of the project which requires the development of requirements for entry into the Doctor Title Class. These requirements include minimum competencies that registrants must have, minimum levels of theoretical and practical instruction in TCM, and minimum levels of clinical training that include direct patient contact. The competency profile and education requirements will need to reflect a high level of education.

Phase 2 must include a consideration of what, if any, prerequisite education is required of a registrant in addition to their TCM education. In Ontario there is an expectation that those who are allowed to hold the Doctor title are highly trained and educated individuals. The Working



Group will be looking to establish what level of education is necessary outside of TCM education to meet this expectation.

Finally, the Consultant will be required to investigate to the value of experience as equivalent to education. In other words, will it be possible for a registrant to qualify for the Doctor Class if they do not have the required education, but do have a significant amount of experience practicing TCM.

The Consultant will conduct sessions with the working group to set a competency profile and education requirement. The Consultant will develop evaluation tools to assess a registrant's competency and education in TCM against the requirements for the Doctor Title. Once complete, the Consultant will validate the draft requirements through stakeholder engagement, and prepare a report for the Working Group detailing the findings of the consultations.

4.2 Project Requirement

As stated in the Section 4.1, Summary of the Project, the successful Proponent will meet with the Doctor Title Working Group and develop timelines and methodology to for setting key requirements for the doctor title including education and competencies. They will be expected to familiarize themselves with the phase one final report which covers the findings from the public consultations. They will then be expected to lead the developments of the requirements with participation of the Working Group.

4.3 Project Deliverables

The Proponent is expected to deliver the following:

4.3.1 Detailed Project Work Plan with Proposed Timelines for the Duration of the Contract

The project work plan should describe:

- The plan and timeline of how phase 2 will be conducted;
- Methodology to develop competencies and education requirements with Working Group participation;
- The activities necessary for developing evaluation tools;
- Methodology for valuating draft competency profile and education requirements; and
- The efforts that will be made to ensure transparency, impartiality, fairness and objectivity of the process.

4.3.2 Develop the Competencies Required to Qualify for the Doctor Title

The Consultant will lead the competency development project which will include:

- Facilitating workshops with the Working Group to develop a competency profile;
- Seeking subject matter experts, and other consultations where necessary; and
- The development of evaluation tools to review the competencies of a registrant

4.3.3 Set Education Requirements for the Doctor Title

The Consultant will work closely with the Working Group to:

- Set minimum requirements for theoretical and practical TCM instruction;
- Set minimum requirements for clinical education that includes direct patient contact;



- Consider the need for prerequisite education;
- Consider alternative requirements for registrants with a high level of experience; and
- Develop evaluation tools to review education.

4.3.4 Validate Requirements

The Consultant will validate the draft competency profile and education requirements by engaging in consultation with key stakeholders. Once complete, the Consultant will draft a report on the findings. Stakeholders are considered to include:

- Patient groups/the general public
- Members of the College;
- Other jurisdictions that regulate TCM/Acupuncture;
- Ontario and Canadian TCM educational facilities;
- TCM associations;
- Office of the Fairness Commissioner;
- Other health regulatory colleges in Ontario and Canada; and
- Ontario Ministry of Health.

4.3.5 Reporting and Approval Requirements

Reports prepared by the Proponent are to be submitted in electronic copy to Ann Zeng at registrar@ctcmpao.on.ca.

The Registrar and CEO of the College, or the designated staff will distribute reports and communications from the Proponent to the Doctor Title Working Group and/or Council for consideration and approval, ensuring that reports and milestones for the project are completed on time.

4.4 Project Timelines

The project will be separated into three phases: (1) conduct an environmental scan, (2) define requirements for the doctor class and (3) draft the regulation amendments to submit to the MOHLTC.

Phase	Activity	Timeline
Phase I –Scan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the purposes of this contract as laid out in Section 4, Project Requirements and Environmental Deliverables;• Define how the Doctor Class benefits the public and improve on system issues for access to healthcare in Ontario;• Facilitate consultation with members of the College, other regulatory bodies, educational institutes, and stakeholders;• Solicit feedback and recommendations from all stakeholders on education and training requirements, assessment process, and competencies for the class;	Completed November 2019



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solicit support from stakeholders, members and the public; and• Provide detailed report of the findings and provide recommendations.	
Phase II – Define Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft competencies to qualify members to use the “doctor” title;• Design evaluation tools;• Survey and analyze education programs; and• Conduct consultations and validation sessions to finalize competencies and evaluation tools.	January 2023 – December 2023
Phase III – Draft Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft the amendment to the Registration Regulation with appropriate Legal counsel and College staff;• Conduct consultation with MOHLTC;• Finalize amendment for 60-day circulation; and• Submit for approval by Council, MOHLTC, and Cabinet.	April 2024 – October 2025

5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

This Section describes the project/service elements that the College will require the successful Proponent to provide. The Proponent should address each element listed below indicating how it will meet the College’s needs.

5.1 General Requirements

The Proponent should demonstrate an understanding of the project to be undertaken/services to be provided and should describe the approaches the Proponent will take to meet the College’s requirements.

The scope and deliverables of this assignment are outlined in Section 4, Project Requirements and Deliverables.

5.2 Qualification/Personnel Requirements

The Proponent should include a detailed description of the relevant qualifications, skills and experience of person(s) who will be assigned to provide the services. A resume or CV should be included with the description.

5.3 Proposed Work-Plan and Timeframe for Project Completion/Service Delivery

The Proponent should provide a detailed work plan of the project/services it will provide including all tasks, milestones and timeframes. This can be accomplished using a chart, graphic or other tool.

The timeframe for this project is expected to adhere to the requirements noted in Section 4.4 Project Timelines.



5.4 Cost Estimates/Budgets

The Proponent should:

- i. provide his/her consulting fees;
- ii. set out separately all anticipated expenses, including travel expenses, which shall be in accordance with Ontario government eligibility rules and rates; and
- iii. calculate the total cost of the project/services to be provided.

6. FORMAT OF THE PROPOSAL

6.1 Proposal Format Checklist

The Proposal should:

- i. Include one signed Proposal marked “original” by email on or before **November 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. EST**;
- ii. include all required elements as described in the RFP;
- iii. include a description of the Proponent’s ability to satisfy the requirements of the RFP; and
- iv. include a detailed cost for the proposed services.

6.2 Proponent Information

The Proposal should provide/state:

- i. name, mailing address, email address, telephone and facsimile numbers of the contact person(s) for the Proponent;
- ii. Proponent’s legal name and any other name under which it carries on business; and
- iii. Proponent’s address, telephone and facsimile numbers.

6.3 Conflict of Interest

The Proponent must confirm in its Proposal that the Proponent:

- i. does not and will not have any conflict of interest (actual or perceived) in submitting its Proposal or, if selected, with the contractual obligations as Contractor under the Agreement. Where applicable, a Proponent must declare in its Proposal any situation that may be a conflict of interest in submitting its Proposal.

The Proponent must confirm that the Proponent neither has nor has had access to any Conflict of Interest Confidential Information as defined below:

- ii. “Conflict of Interest Confidential Information” refers to confidential information of the College other than confidential information disclosed to Proponent in the normal course of the RFP. The Conflict of Interest Confidential Information is relevant to the project/services required by the RFP and the RFP evaluation process, and the disclosure for which could result in prejudice to the College or an unfair advantage to the Proponent.
- iii. “Confidential Information” means information, data, material and items in any form supplied to the Proponent by the College or otherwise acquired by the Proponent in connection with this RFP, whether supplied to or acquired by the Proponent before or after the issuance of this RFP, as well



as all software and deliverables supplied or created by the Proponent.

All Confidential Information is the property of the College, unless otherwise indicated.

The Proponent shall ensure that it:

- i. holds Confidential Information in confidence;
- ii. does not disclose Confidential Information without prior written authorization from the College;
- iii. upon request returns Confidential Information to the College within ten calendar days after any request; and
- iv. upon request returns all Confidential Information to the College within ten calendar days after the announcement of the qualified Proponent.

The Proposal of any Proponent may be disqualified, or if the Proposal is accepted, can be cancelled, where the Proponent fails to provide confirmation of the foregoing or makes misrepresentations regarding any of the above.

7. EVALUATION PROCESS

The objective of the evaluation process is to identify the Proposal(s) that most effectively meet(s) the requirements of the RFP, based on the evaluation criteria.

7.1 Evaluation Process

The College shall evaluate all Proposals that have not been disqualified for the reasons set out in Section 2.4, Disqualification of Proposals.

7.2 Evaluation of Overall Presentation of Proposal and General Requirements of the RFP

Stage 1:

The College shall evaluate the Proponent's Proposal based on the rated criteria with respect to the requirements of the RFP provided for in Section 4, Project Requirements and Deliverables.

Stage 2:

The top Proponents will be invited to participate in an interview/presentation with the Selection Panel.

Stage 3:

The College shall check the references provided by the selected Proponents.

Further details concerning this evaluation are provided for in Section 9, Evaluation Criteria.

The College reserves the right to communicate with Proponents as necessary during the evaluation process. Not all Proponents may be communicated with in the same manner or to the same extent.

The College without liability, cost, or penalty, may, in its sole discretion, at any stage, do one or more of the following:

- i. qualify any Proponent;
- ii. not qualify any Proponent;



- iii. cancel the RFP;
- iv. issue a new RFP; or
- v. short-list one or more Proponents for further evaluation.

8. CONTRACT

Subject to satisfactory reference checks and completed security clearances, any qualified Proponent will be required to enter into an acceptable written contract with the College before final selection. The College may, in its sole discretion, enter into preliminary discussions with the Proponent with the aim of expediting the finalization of the contract and any negotiations.

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each Proponent's submitted Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Stage 1

Rated Criteria	Weighting (Points)
Experience and Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven track record Proven experience and understanding of Registration Regulations 	40 points
Communication and Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven experience in methodology and development of competencies Proven experience in education standard setting Proven experience in methodology and facilitation of consultations 	60 points
Accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven ability to meet timeline and delivery expectations 	20 points
Total out of a possible 120 points	

Stage 2

Rated Criteria	Weighting (Points)
Interview/Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique experience in execution of similar projects Unique aspects to ensure timely delivery of project deliverables Experience in methodology and facilitation of consultations 	40 points
Total out of a possible 40 points	

Stage 3

Rated Criteria	Weighting (Points)
References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsiveness to client needs and flexibility Reliability and professionalism 	40 points



Total out of a possible 40 points	
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The questions below have been provided to indicate the kinds of considerations the College will make when evaluating Proposals. This list may not be exhaustive. The questions have been organized to correspond to the requirements provided for in Section 4, Project Requirements and Deliverables and Section 5, General Requirements.

9.1 Evaluation of the General Requirements

Does the Proponent describe the project/services in such a way that the Proponent demonstrates an understanding of the project/services?

9.2 Evaluation of Qualifications

Do the qualifications, skills and experience of the Proponent appear to be appropriate and sufficient to meet the College's needs?

9.3 Evaluation of Proposed Work Plan and Timeframe for Project Completion/Service Delivery

Does the work plan and timeframe address and meet the College's needs?

9.4 Evaluation of Cost Estimates/Budgets

How does the total cost of the project compare with the costs shown in other Proposals and does it fit within the College's budgetary allocation for this project? Cost is not the only consideration and the lowest bid may not necessarily be the successful one.

9.5 Evaluation of Communications Abilities

Has the Proponent communicated easily and clearly? How will the Proponent be able to accommodate the unique language challenges of the Proposal and members?

APPENDIX A – Terms of Reference, Doctor Title Working Group

APPENDIX B – Summary of Phase 1: Environmental Scan

APPENDIX A - Terms of Reference, Doctor Title Working Group



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario
Ordre des praticiens en médecine traditionnelle
chinoise et des acupuncteurs de l'Ontario

NAME	Terms of Reference – Doctor Title Working Group		
TYPE	Council		
DATE APPROVED	June 20, 2019	DATE REVISED	March 21, 2022

Purpose

The Doctor Title Working Group (the “Working Group”) shall, after researching and analyzing options, prepare recommendations to the Council as to whether the development of the “Dr.” Title Class regulation should occur, and if so, the terms of such a regulation. The working group shall conduct research, synthesize information, make recommendations and undertake project activities at the request of the Council.

Accountability

The Working Group is a non-statutory committee of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario and is accountable directly to Council. The Working Group understands that the College has a mandate to serve and protect the public interest and that the recommendations of the Working Group will adhere to this mandate.

Each member of the Working Group must sign a binding Confidentiality Agreement at the time of each appointment indicating their agreement to maintain the confidentiality, security and integrity of all materials during and after their term on the Working Group. For more detail please see below.

Members must declare any conflict of interests prior to the discussion of individual files or at any time a conflict of interest or the potential for one arises. For more detail please see below.

Council will ensure that members of the Working Group receive training in their role to carry out the responsibilities of the Working Group. In addition, Council will ensure that members receive such legislated training and other training deemed necessary for the effective discharge of their responsibilities,

Limitations

The Working Group shall only exercise the authority, and fulfill the duties and responsibilities authorized by these Terms of Reference.

Duties and Responsibilities

Working under the direction of the Council and with the Registrar, the Working Group shall do the following:

- Consider the background material and supporting documentation provided to it by the Registrar for the regulation development process;

- Propose an appropriate Work Plan and budget;
- Review and recommend regulation development projects and initiatives;
- Co-ordinate, follow-up, monitor and report on programs as project development and operations proceed;
- Provide any requested reports to Council on the activities of the working group.

Composition of Working Group

The Working Group shall be appointed by Council and will consist of a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 members. A priority of the Working Group will be to ensure that there is a balanced representation of both professional and public members of the Council. However, the composition may change depending on the subject matter to be reviewed. From time to time, the working group may recruit non-Council members, members of the public, and such other subject matter experts in order to provide necessary advice to the working group. Such engagement may or may not require membership in the ad hoc working group.

When appointing members to the Working Group, Council shall consider the length of the project, and the need for a continuation of knowledge. To achieve this, Council should consider those currently serving on the Working Group for reappointment.

Criteria for Membership

Members of the working group are expected to be:

- Understands the *RHPA, the Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, 2006* and the regulatory framework for healthcare professions in Ontario;
- Understand that the mandate of the College is to serve and protect the public interest;
- Comply with the *Code of Conduct for Members of the Council and All Committees*;
- Familiar with the concept and process of developing competencies;
- Available and committed to participating fully in the working group; and
- Able to synthesize and analyze complex data and information;

Professional Members or members of the College should have a minimum of 5 (five) years of clinical experience in the TCM profession.

Professional Members cannot be an owner, director, board member or officer in a TCM/Acupuncture Association or a director, owner, board member or officer in a TCM/Acupuncture School (public or private).

Non-Council members of the public may be appointed to the Working Group if they have demonstrated significant knowledge or experience relevant to the working group.

Term of Office

The Working Group shall be appointed for a 1-year term.

Meetings

Meetings shall, whenever possible, be held at a place and on a date set in advance by the Registrar and shall occur at regular intervals and at such frequency as necessary, as determined by the Registrar, for the Working Group to conduct its business.

Quorum

Pursuant to section 12.10 of the By-laws of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario, quorum for meetings of the Working Group shall be three (3) members of the Working Group.

Selection of the Chair

The Chair shall be selected by the Working Group.

In the event that the Chair is unable or unwilling to preside at the meeting, the Chair shall designate an acting Chair from among the Working Group members to preside at the meeting. If the Chair is unable to delegate his or her chairing duties, the Working Group shall then select an acting Chair to preside at the meeting from among its members.

Voting

Whenever possible, decision-making at the Working Group level shall be conducted using a consensus model. When necessary, formal voting will be used.

Unless specifically provided for otherwise under the By-laws, every motion that properly comes before a Working Group shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast at the meeting by the Working Group members present.

The Chair, as a member of the Working Group, may vote.

In the event of a tie vote, the motion is defeated.

Reporting

The Working Group shall provide a report of its activities at every Council meeting on activities that have been undertaken since the last report. The Working Group prepares an annual report of its activities at the end of each fiscal year.

Conflict of Interest

All Working Group members have a duty to carry out their responsibilities in a manner that serves and protects the interest of the public. As such, they must not engage in any activities or in decision-making concerning any matters where they have a direct or indirect personal or financial interest. All Working

Group members have a duty to uphold and further the intent of the Act to regulate the professional practice of traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and acupuncturists in Ontario, and not to represent the views of advocacy or special interest groups.

Comprehensive information regarding conflict of interest obligations is included in the by-laws and must be reviewed and understood by all Working Group members.

Working Group Records

The Working Group Chair shall ensure that accurate minutes of all meetings and proceedings are recorded, approved and provided to the Registrar. The Registrar shall act as a group leader during the meetings and provide advice and recommendation.

Confidentiality

Members of the Working Group will have access to highly sensitive and confidential information that they must keep in the strictest confidence. It is understood that the duty of confidentiality for members of this Working Group are especially stringent. Members of the Working Group shall not discuss with anyone any information that the Working Group considers, even in a general nature, except for the purposes of providing the annual report to Council.

Evaluation

The Working Group terms of reference will be reviewed annually and amended where necessary, for example in response to statutory, regulatory, or policy amendments. Any amendments to the terms must be approved by Council.

APPENDIX B - Summary of Phase 1: Environmental Scan



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

CTCMPAO Doctor Title Project Summary of Phase 1 Final Report: Environmental Scan

Background

Phase 1 of the Doctor Title Project was to conduct an environmental scan to consult with stakeholders from the public, TCM schools, associations, members, government, other health professional regulatory bodies. The purpose of this phase was to gauge perceptions on the Doctor Title in traditional Chinese medicine and seek input for expectations on the development of competencies, an assessment process, and class entry requirements, such as education, experience and training.

In October 2017, the College engaged R. A. Malatest & Associates to assist the College in conducting the environmental scan.

In November of 2019, the College's Doctor Title Working Group received and reviewed the final report on the environmental scan, bringing a close to Phase 1 of the project.

Report

The report focused on:

- Perceived benefits of a Doctor Class to TCM users and the Ontario healthcare system, including changes in scope of practice if they are perceived as a benefit;
- Communications strategies about the Doctor Class among other professions and the public;
- Class entry requirements;
- Gauging levels of support for a Doctor Class and;
- Trends in TCM and healthcare in general.

As a result of the findings, Malatest has made a number of recommendations to the Working Group. These include:

- Set a very high Educational Equivalency standard, with well over ten years practice experience, to ensure the College meets the expectations of a high level of education.
- Set a minimum of two years Post Secondary Education training in a relevant area of education.
- Ensure that schooling from an approved program is a requirement that must be met for entry into the Doctor Class.
- Implement program approval or at least an approved Doctor Class Bridging program.
- Work to create a knowledge and language exchange program among Registrants to assist Registrants to help each other enter the Doctor Class. The Working Group must consider who will teach the Doctor Class.
- For those who have a high level of experience, an alternate registration route should be made available for them. However, it is recommended that Ontario does not use the Grandparenting method used in BC, as their standards were not high enough.



- The college must verify credentials for fraud, diploma mills and accredited or approved institutions to align with standards set by every other profession that uses the Doctor Title in Ontario.
- A majority of the Public (55%) indicated that TCM providers using the Doctor Title would not change their use of TCM services. As such, it may be worthwhile to communicate with the public about the benefits of a Doctor Class of TCM providers to the public health system overall.