

Transitional Council of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario



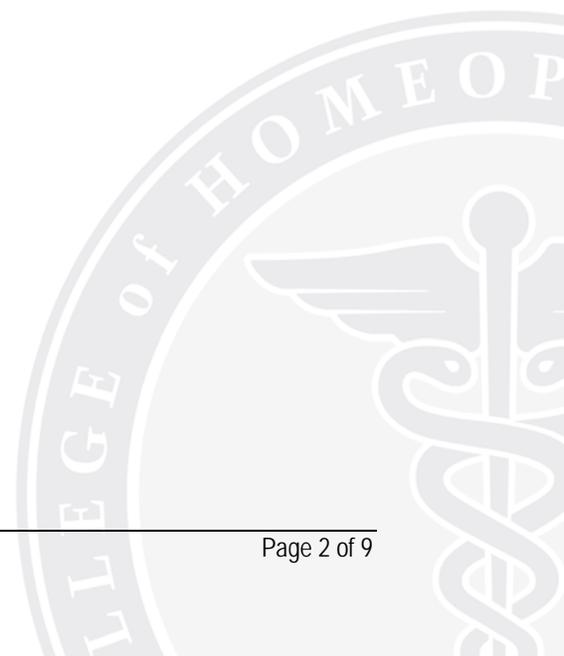
Annual Report April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

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The Mission of the transitional Council of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario is to protect the public interest through self-regulation of the practice of homeopathic medicine by setting high standards for competency and ethical practice. This is achieved through consultation with stakeholders in accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, and the Homeopathy Act, 2007.

Approved in principle January 22, 2010



COUNTDOWN TO PROCLAMATION

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND REGISTRAR

In February 2005, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Honourable George Smitherman, asked the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) for its advice on:

*"Whether homeopaths should be regulated under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), 1991, including what their scope of practice should be, what controlled acts, if any, they should be authorized to perform, and any protection titles, and whether it is appropriate that homeopaths be regulated under an existing profession specific act.*"¹*

The recommendation was the inclusion of homeopathy under RHPA without controlled acts, and the *Homeopathy Act, 2007*, was passed by the Ontario legislature in June of that year. The provisions in force at this time give the transitional Council the necessary power to embark on and complete its work to create regulations, define professional competencies, and set educational standards and draft standards of practice for homeopathy to ensure the public receives the best possible care from qualified providers.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council appointed a Registrar and 16 Council members in 2009; the transitional Council held its inaugural meeting in November of the same year. A new profession was born with the arrival of the transitional Council of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario. It has been an exciting time for those involved in the process of regulating homeopathy as we watch the regulatory infrastructure unfold. Regulation assures the public accessible and reliable homeopathic health care.

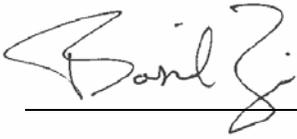
The road to proclamation is long and complex, especially for a new profession which has no broadly agreed upon core competencies, accepted practice or education standards and without a recognized certification examination process. A tremendous amount of work has gone into research and development, planning, writing policy, and processing material in order to support Council, and to orient those involved on the requirements of the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) and the Government of Ontario.

This report details Council's work during the period from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. This transitional Council has worked hard and made significant progress during its 10 months of existence. These efforts would not have been possible without the valuable support and guidance of the Health Professions Regulatory Policy and Program Branch of the MOHLTC, the forward thinking of those at the HPRAC, and the Minister's office for their desire to protect the public in their health care choices.

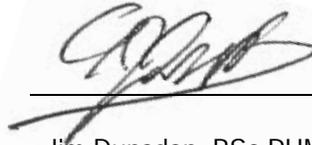
Thank you as well to the talented public and professional Council members, legal counsel, and our extremely capable staff for all of their hard work and their consistent ability to meet deadlines.

¹ Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council New Directions Report, April 2006. Page 147. Minister's Referral Letter, February 2005, Appendix A.

On behalf of the entire Council, we look to the considerable and challenging work ahead of us, as we countdown to proclamation and the registering of homeopaths under the RHPA. We will do our work in the public interest by being transparent, fair, objective, impartial and accountable.



Basil Ziv, B.Com, RSHom (NA), CCH
Registrar



Jim Dunsdon, BSc.PHM
President

"The highest ideal of cure is rapid, gentle and permanent restoration of the health, or removal and annihilation of the disease in its whole extent, in the shortest, most reliable, and most harmless way, on easily comprehensible principles."²

Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, MD 1755 – 1843, Founder of Homeopathy.

Acknowledgements:

The transitional Council of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario is grateful to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term-Care for supporting this initiative through a funding loan.

² *Organon of Medicine*, 6th Edition, §2, Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, MD. Published in German, circa 1842. Translated and published by William Boericke in 1922.

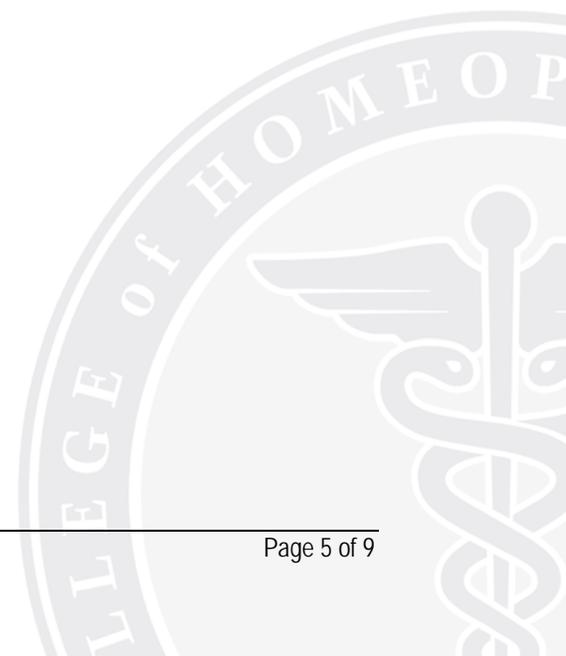
OBJECTIVES AND OBJECTS OF THE TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL

The Homeopathy Act, 2007, ("the Act") allows for the creation of the transitional Council of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario to allow self-regulation of the homeopathy profession within the framework of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA). It has a specific duty to protect the public interest.

The transitional Council is accountable to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and responsible for establishing the College of Homeopaths of Ontario. It also exercises the powers of a Council of a health regulatory college. During its existence the transitional Council has the mandate to:

1. Establish an accountability agreement, including a memorandum of understanding and loan agreement, with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care;
2. Establish, in collaboration with the Registrar, administrative processes and the infrastructure necessary for the College to operate;
3. Develop by-laws, professional ethics, policies and guidelines;
4. Develop competencies, entry-to-practice criteria, and practice standards, and registration, professional misconduct, and quality assurance regulations;
5. Develop processes to assess and register members;
6. Develop processes to handle complaints and the discipline of members;
7. Develop communication programs to reach members of the profession, the public and other stakeholders.

Once the transitional Council completes its work, and the Homeopathy Act, 2007 is proclaimed, the College will have the tools to fully regulate the practice of homeopathy in the public interest.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

This report details the transitional Council's work during the period of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. During this 10 month period the transitional Council has made significant progress in fulfilling its mandate and accomplished the following tasks:

Introduction of Council

The appointments of members of the transitional Council, both public and professional, are made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, are administered by the Public Appointments Secretariat, an agent of the Ontario Government.

In September 2009, the appointment of nine professional members and seven public appointees to the transitional Council for the College of Homeopaths of Ontario was announced.

At the inaugural meeting on November 3, 2009, the transitional Council elected, from among its own members, the officers who make up the statutory Executive Committee as well as the Registration Committee. It also appointed committee chairs and assigned a transitional Council member to each committee. In addition, the formation of a non-statutory Professional Practice Committee was completed.

Over the course of the year, two Council meetings, three Executive Committee meetings, three Registration Committee, and two Professional Practice Committee meetings were held.

Planning

At the inaugural meeting, Council approved its by-laws, and appointed an auditor and legal counsel. This laid the groundwork for the transitional Council to develop and approve the terms of reference. Work plans were created for Council and each committee. Work was undertaken to begin to realize these plans including undertaking research, creating supporting policies, developing processes and operational structures, and hiring staff.

Operational Structure

In addition to the Registrar, the transitional Council hired three support staff including an Executive Assistant, Operations Officer, and Policy and Communications Officer. The transitional Council utilized the facilities and infrastructure of HealthForce Ontario Marketing and Recruitment Agency located at 163 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, in order to minimize costs and focus its efforts on policy development, communications and the regulatory process.

During the 10 month period covered in this report a Business Plan was developed and submitted to the Executive Committee, and a budget was developed and approved in principle by Council in May 2010.

Communications was a central focus and the Executive Committee approved a Communications and Research plan which was submitted to Council. A website (collegeofhomeopaths.on.ca) was developed and posted with information on the transitional Council to help explain the regulatory process and answers to Frequently Asked Questions. *Milestones*, the first newsletter of the transitional Council, was created and stakeholder meetings with professional schools and associations commenced. The corporate identity was completed and incorporated into all transitional Council documentation.

Report – Executive Committee (Statutory)

Scope and Purpose:

The Executive Committee has all the powers of the Council to deal with any matter that, in its opinion, requires immediate attention other than the power to make, amend or revoke a regulation or by-law. The Executive Committee is directly accountable to the Council and indirectly accountable to the government, the public, the profession for the effective governance of the College in accordance with all applicable legislative requirements.

Members: Kathy Desjardins (Professional)
Jim Dunsdon, President (Public)
Eden Gajraj (Public)
Violetta Ilkiw, Vice President (Professional)
John Millar (Professional)

Support: Janet Blanchard (Policy and Communications Officer)
Grace Ivo (Executive Assistant)
Katharine McEachern (Operations Officer)
Basil Ziv (Registrar)

Number of Meetings: Three

Accomplishments of the Executive Committee:

- The President established regular meetings with the Registrar to ensure that Council and Executive Committee business is running smoothly leading up to and between meetings;
- Developed and approved committee terms of reference and work plan;
- Commenced negotiations on behalf of Council on an accountability agreement, including a memorandum of understanding and loan agreement, with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care;
- Commenced negotiations on behalf of Council on a service agreement with HealthForce Ontario Marketing and Recruitment Agency;
- Approved and passed to Council mission, vision and value statements for approval in principle;
- Initiated a Council wide planning session for Fall 2010 to confirm mission, vision and value statements, confirm governance structure, set executive limitations, and reach consensus on priorities and timelines;
- Reviewed and moved forward policies for Council review and approval on procurement, website privacy, and letters of support.

Report – Registration Committee (Statutory)

Scope and Purpose:

The Registration Committee provides direction to the College and the Registrar with regard to the registration processes. The Committee will develop standards, policies, guidelines, and regulations.

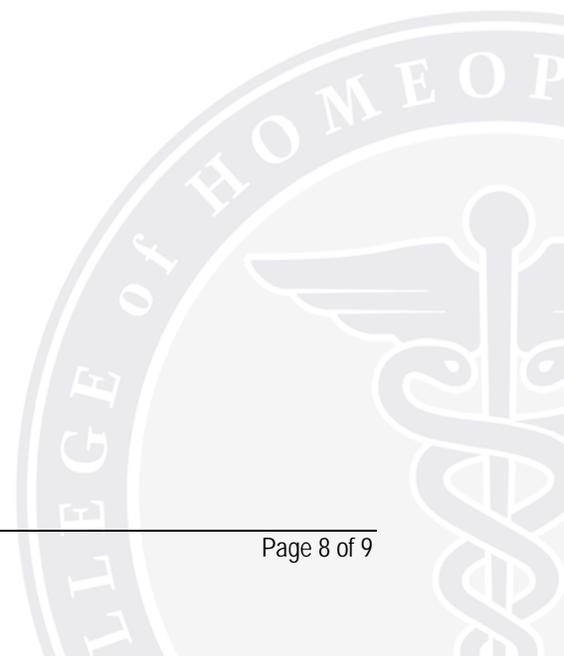
Members: Ling Goh (Professional)
Wangari Muriuki (Public)
Bhupinder Sharma (Professional)
Mirsada Vins, Chair (Professional)
Kelly Warren (Public)

Support: Grace Ivo (Executive Assistant)
Katharine McEachern (Operations Officer)
Basil Ziv (Registrar)

Number of Meetings: Three

Accomplishments of the Registration Committee:

- Developed committee terms of reference and work plan;
- Developed a definition of homeopathy;
- Discussed registration issues, reviewed the components of registration regulation, and received a presentation by legal counsel on registration regulations process which was taken forward to Council;
- Researched and initiated the process for the development of core competencies and entry-to-practice requirements;
- Investigated the regulation of homeopathy and the review of professional core competencies across international jurisdictions.



Report – Professional Practice Committee (Non-Statutory)

Scope and Purpose:

The Professional Practice Committee will develop the Professional Misconduct Regulation, a statutory component of the public protection mandate of health regulatory Colleges governed by the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA).

Members: Whitney Collins (Professional)
John Curran (Public)
Ron Harris (Professional)
Joseph Lloyd-Jones, Chair (Public)
Margaret Martin (Public)
Luba Plotkin (Professional)

Support: Janet Blanchard (Policy and Communications Officer)
Grace Ivo (Executive Assistant)
Basil Ziv (Registrar)

Number of Meetings: Two

Accomplishments of the Professional Practice Committee:

- Developed committee terms of reference and work plan;
- Discussed professional misconduct issues related to all professionals under RHPA and specific to homeopathy;
- Reviewed the components of professional misconduct regulation and received a presentation by legal counsel on the regulations process;
- Researched Code of Ethics across the homeopathic profession and within other health regulatory colleges.

