



Transitional Council
of the College of Homeopaths
of Ontario

CONTACT US

We welcome your comments, questions, concerns, or requests for information.
163 Queen Street East, 4th Floor Toronto, ON M5A 1S1
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Milestones

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Why regulate homeopathy?

The *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) and health profession acts, such as the *Homeopathy Act, 2007*, provide a consistent framework for Ontario's regulated health professions. The RHPA incorporates a number of underlying principles, including:

- Advancing the public interest;
- Protecting the public from unqualified, incompetent or unethical health care providers;
- Promoting accountability among health care professionals;
- Encouraging public access to health care professionals of their choice;
- Respecting all styles of practice provided the public is protected;
- Enhancing interprofessional collaborative care for the benefit of the patient; and
- Continuing quality improvement across professions.

There are advantages to the profession of homeopathy being a regulated health profession, including:

- Recognition of homeopathic competency, training and education by patients, insurers, government, and other health care professionals;
- Increased level of consistency of the patient experience;
- Increased level of professionalism, access and respect; and
- Opportunity to establish uniform baselines for patient care by setting requirements for education, training, ethics and professional standards, and by incorporating continuing improvement.



Questions about the regulatory process? Drop us a line.

Draft Regulations Released this Summer!

The transitional Council and its committees have been working diligently, with legal counsel, to draft Quality Assurance, Professional Misconduct and Registration Regulations for broad formal consultation and feedback. The development of these regulations have occurred through 16-months of committee and working group meetings, much research and many discussions with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, other regulatory health colleges, and homeopathic educators/associations. The next step in the process is the upcoming 60-day formal consultation process which opens the documents to review and feedback to all interested stakeholders.

During the formal consultations the regulations will be posted on the transitional Council website and mailed/ emailed to everyone in our database including those who have signed up for the "Information Alert Service".

The formal consultation allows individuals to provide written comment on the regulations and to express comment and/ or concern on any provision within the regulations. All written comments are reviewed by the committees/working groups involved in the development of the regulations, and will be attached to the transitional Council's submission to the Government once the regulations are sent for review and approval.

In addition to the formal paper consultations, the transitional Council will be hosting a series of information and outreach meetings to provide more details about the upcoming regulation of homeopathy and to answer questions on the process. These meetings are being planned for late summer. Please watch for more information on dates and locations.

We look forward to your involvement in the upcoming consultation process.

What are regulations?

Regulations are a type of written law made by the transitional Council and approved by the Ontario Cabinet. Regulations are a legally enforceable series of provisions which highlight behaviours and or actions that are required to be a member of a regulated profession¹.

Regulations are subordinate to the *Homeopathy Act, 2007* and the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. They contain details that support the guiding principles of the legislation and may only exist pursuant to legislation. Regulations address topics such as registration, professional misconduct, quality assurance, advertising, informed consent, conflict of interest, record keeping, etc. Regulatory submissions and proposals require review, feedback and approval by provincial government before coming into effect.²



How have the regulations been developed?

The transitional Council and its committees have been working diligently, with legal counsel, to prepare the draft regulations. The development of these regulations have occurred through 16-months of committee and working group meetings, much research and many discussions with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, other regulatory health colleges, and homeopathic educators/associations.

All Ontario schools and provincial/national associations were contacted to provide preliminary comments on the draft regulations. The Registration Regulation was also sent to the Ontario Office of the Fairness Commissioner. Feedback from these sources have been reviewed by the committees and working groups. All committees and working group are comprised of appointees from the general public and the profession. These individuals review all information and make decisions in the context of public safety and protection.



Countdown to Proclamation

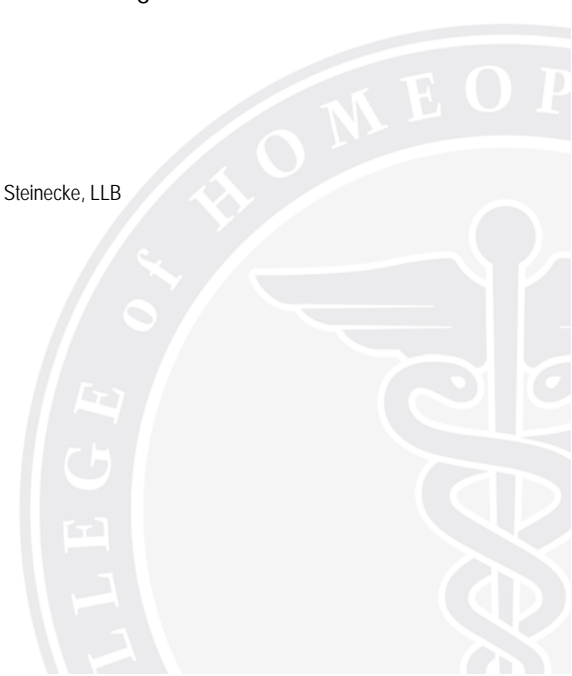
The countdown to proclamation has now been firmly set for completion in 2013. At the May 30, 2011 meeting the transitional Council confirmed its commitment to complete its mandate by 2013, and put the necessary infrastructure for the College of Homeopaths of Ontario in place so that pre-registration of members can begin sometime in 2012.

Thank you to all who have signed up for the "Information Alert Service".

Not signed up yet? Contact us at info@collegeofhomeopaths.on.ca

1. Richard Steinecke, LLB

2. Ibid.



What regulations is the transitional Council working on?

Currently, the transitional Council has drafted three required regulations to be released for stakeholder consultation – Registration, Professional Misconduct, and Quality Assurance. The primary stakeholders in this consultation process are individual homeopaths and the public, both groups who will be directly impacted by the draft regulations. Other stakeholders include a broad cross section of groups including schools, associations, government departments, and other regulatory health care colleges. Stakeholders are allotted a 60-day period to review and comment on the draft documents.

Individuals who wish to practice as and call themselves a “Homeopath”, who qualify for registration, and who choose to maintain membership with the College of Homeopaths of Ontario will be required to adhere to these regulations. The regulations and the Homeopathy Act, 2007 are expected to be proclaimed into law during 2013.

Registration Regulation³

- The registration regulation sets out the requirements for obtaining and maintaining registration with the College of Homeopaths of Ontario. It is an essential regulation.
- These requirements are the primary method of assuring the public that a registered practitioner is competent to practice, possesses the appropriate skills and training to ensure protection of the public, and is maintaining currency of the required knowledge and skill.
- The transitional Council is required to ensure that the registration process is transparent, objective and fair.



Professional Misconduct Regulation⁴

- Professional misconduct is the act of failing to do something, or doing something contrary to accepted ethical or professional behaviour.
- Professional misconduct provisions in the draft regulation cover such areas as abuse, informed consent, conflict of interest, business practices, record keeping, practising the profession while under the influence of any substance, and engaging in conduct regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.
- The Professional Misconduct Regulation, together with RHPA, provides the public with a means of protection and a process in which complaints may be filed, investigated, and acted upon where necessary through discipline or remediation.

Quality Assurance Regulation⁵

- Regulatory health colleges must have a program to assure the quality of practice of the profession and to promote the continuing competence of members.
- The Quality Assurance Regulation outlines the requirements of the Quality Assurance Program which requires mandatory adherence by all members of the future college.
- The Quality Assurance Program focuses on supportive educational action across the profession to encourage excellence in practice.
- Components of the Quality Assurance Regulation include professional development (continuing education and continuous quality improvement), standards of practice, self assessments, peer assessments, practice assessments, and monitoring of compliance.

3. Prepared with input from Richard Steinecke, LLB

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

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Council Highlights

May 30, 2011

The following are highlights from the May 30, 2011 Council meeting:

- Transitional Council confirmed its commitment to complete its mandate by 2013, and put the necessary infrastructure for the College of Homeopaths of Ontario in place so that pre-registration of members can begin sometime in 2012.
- Council reviewed and discussed the draft of the Registration Regulation. Feedback was provided to the Registration Committee. A revised draft will come back to the transitional Council prior to broad distribution and 60-day consultation
- Council approved the Professional Misconduct and Quality Assurance Regulations for release to the general public and stakeholders during summer 2011.
- Establishment of the Assessment Working Group (AWG) and election of Council members to the group. The AWG is a non-statutory working group struck as defined in the Bylaws of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario. The AWG develops the framework under which the assessment tool(s) for entry-to-practice and registration will be developed. Mr. John Millar was named AWG chair.

Upcoming Projects for the Transitional Council

- Development and validation of entry-to-practice competencies
- Development and validation of professional standards
- Development of policies, guidelines and the Quality Assurance Program



Council Committee & Working Group List

Assessment Working Group

John Millar, Chair (*professional*)
John Curran (*public*)
Eden Gajraj (*public*)
Luba Plotkina (*professional*)
Bhupinder Sharma (*professional*)
Mirsada Vins (*professional*)
Kelly Warren (*public*)

Communications Working Group

Eden Gajraj, Chair (*public*)
Ron Harris (*professional*)
Wangari Muriuki (*public*)
Luba Plotkina (*professional*)

Executive Committee

Jim Dunsdon, *President* (*public*)
Violetta Ilkiw, *Vice President* (*professional*)
Ling Goh (*professional*)
Margaret Martin (*public*)
Luba Plotkina (*professional*)

Governance Working Group

John Curran, Chair (*public*)
Whitney Collins (*professional*)
Kathy Desjardins (*professional*)
Jim Dunsdon (*public*)
John Millar (*professional*)

Professional Practice Working Group

Whitney Collins, Chair (*professional*)
John Curran (*public*)
Ron Harris (*professional*)
Margaret Martin (*public*)
Luba Plotkina (*professional*)

Registration Committee

Wangari Muriuki, *Chair* (*public*)
Violetta Ilkiw (*professional*)
Bhupinder Sharma (*professional*)
Mirsada Vins (*professional*)
Kelly Warren (*public*)

Steering Working Group

Eden Gajraj, Chair (*public*)
Kathy Desjardins (*professional*)
Ling Goh (*professional*)
Bhupinder Sharma (*professional*)
Mirsada Vins (*professional*)
Kelly Warren (*public*)
Margaret Martin (*public*)

Registrar

Basil Ziv

Operations

Janet Blanchard
Mary Kennedy
Katharine McEachern

A Warm Farewell to Joseph Lloyd-Jones

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of transitional Council member Joseph Lloyd-Jones PhD, FCGA on March 16, 2011. Joseph will be missed for his kindness, graciousness, intellect, altruism, and interest in integrated health care. The transitional Council and staff benefitted greatly from his wisdom and knowledge of both the academic environment and regulatory process. Although he was only able to be with us for the first year of our transitional period, his role as Chair, Professional Practice Committee was instrumental in helping to lay the groundwork for the profession's entry into the regulatory environment and the development of our Professional Misconduct Regulation.



Upcoming Events

July 15, 2011 Council Meeting 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
163 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON*

The meeting will be held by teleconference. We are not able to accommodate the public who wish to join the meeting by phone; however, public are welcome to join us in-person to listen into the teleconference.

July 2011 60-day Public Consultation on
Draft Regulations Begin

Summer 2011 Open Information Sessions for public
and homeopaths (Locations and
dates to be announced.)

Sept 2011 60-day Public Consultation on
Draft Regulations Ends

Sept 26, 2011 Council Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
163 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON

Nov 27, 2011 Two-day Council Meeting
Nov 28, 2011 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location to be confirmed.

Feb 27, 2012 Council Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location to be confirmed.

Transitional Council meetings are open to the public to observe. As space is limited and time, date or location may change members of the public who would like to observe a transitional Council meeting should provide advance notice of their interest in attending.

If you wish to observe a Council meeting, please contact us by email at info@collegeofhomeopaths.on.ca or by telephone at 416-862-4780.

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Professional Survey

At its March 7, 2011 meeting, the transitional Council approved a partnership with University of Toronto (UofT) to conduct the first comprehensive collection of data on the homeopathic profession. This study will improve the Council's understanding of the demographics of the profession through data collection of education, training, and practice characteristics. It will also help to inform the future development of guidelines, policies and standards, and provide supporting documentation for submissions made to the Government.

"We believe that this research will help us gather a thorough understanding of the makeup of the profession in Ontario," says Registrar Basil Ziv. "The collaboration will provide for an objective third party data collection source. It is a very exciting initiative which will help inform the work of the transitional Council."

The Transitional Council will not have access to any individual responses to the survey. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and once submitted all of your answers will be kept confidential. The data will be stored on a password protected computer accessible only to the University of Toronto research team.

Researchers Heather Boon, PhD, and Sandra Welsh, PhD, will be spearheading the study, which will examine the professions of homeopathy, naturopathy, and traditional Chinese medicine.

If your name and email address is in the transitional Council database you will be contacted by the UofT study team. **If you prefer NOT to participate in the study**, please contact the transitional Council office or the study investigators and have your name removed from the survey list.

We encourage everyone to take 25 minutes to complete the online survey. Your participation in this research is important and will inform the future direction of professional standards, guidelines and policies.

Thank you in advance for your involvement in this research study.