

October 14, 2020

College Name Change for Transition to HPA

Dear Members,

The College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAAA) has been working to complete the transition to the *Health Professions Act*. On behalf of the Council, I am pleased to report to you that the transition has been proceeding smoothly. By this email, I would like to advise you that once the Acupuncturist profession in Alberta completes the transition to the *Health Professions Act*, the College will adopt its new name “College of Acupuncturists of Alberta”.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta was designated by the Minister of Health to govern the acupuncturist profession in Alberta in accordance with the *Health Disciplines Act* and the associated *Acupuncture Regulation*. This Ministerial Order came into effect from January 1, 2011.
2. Prior to January 1, 2011, the acupuncturist profession was governed by the Acupuncture Committee under the Health Disciplines Board administered through Alberta Health. In preparation of governance transition, an interim council was created in November 2006 with collaboration of three professional associations: the Acupuncture Society of Alberta; the Alberta Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctors, and the Canadian Health Profession Acupuncture Society.
3. The College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta was derived from the Acupuncture Society of Alberta (ASA) effective from January 12, 2007, and has been a society registered under the Alberta Societies Act (#502566730).
4. In April 2010, an election was conducted to elect the first council of the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta.
5. November 30, 2010, the Minister of Health appointed the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta to govern the acupuncturist profession (M.O. 77/2010). In accordance with the *Health Disciplines Act*, section 12, the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta is also a corporation designated by the Minister of Health to govern the acupuncturist profession.

6. In the transition preparation, the interim council had debate over what name to use. Eventually it was decided to use the name “College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAAA)”, because the CAAA was derived from the Acupuncture Society of Alberta (ASA), and the CAAA wanted to provide some continued association-style support to its members.
7. Now with the transition to the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), the College must deliberate about what name to use moving forward. The HPA was proclaimed in December 2001. Since then, the Alberta Government has been working to bring all regulated health professions under the same legislation, the HPA. The acupuncturist profession was already included in the HPA, Schedule 1. The name of the regulatory body is College of Acupuncturists of Alberta.

In 2018, legal advice was obtained regarding the name change with the transition to the HPA. Considering legal advice, the CAAA Council decided at its meeting in May 2018 to continue use the name “College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta” under the *Health Disciplines Act*, and use the new name “College of Acupuncturists of Alberta” when the transition to the *Health Professions Act* is completed.

8. It should be noted that in July 2020, Alberta Health conducted a survey on the proposed amendments to the *Health Professions Act*. One of the proposed amendments is the separation between regulatory college and professional association. With the amendment, the College will have to use the name “College of Acupuncturists of Alberta”, which is consistent with the decision made by the CAAA Council in May 2018.

NEXT STEPS

9. Legal advice which was obtained in May 2018 suggested: The fact that “association” is not in the college name once under the *Health Professions Act* would not in general prevent the college from carrying out some association-style activities provided they did not interfere with the primary public protection purpose of the college.

As such and considering the need of members in their professional development, the College may continue to provide support to members as decided by Council until complete delineation of college and association has occurred under the *Health Professions Act*.

10. On coming into force of Schedule 1 to the *Health Professions Act*, the College will start using the new name “College of Acupuncturists of Alberta”. Members will be informed of the transition progress accordingly.

I want to take this opportunity to thank members of previous council for their efforts in moving the profession forward. Transition to the *Health Professions Act* is big step forward for our

profession. The Council is committed to further improving our standards of practice, competency, education and ethical conduct to earn the confidence and recognition of the public.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please email Ms. Janelle Kulak at communication@acupuncturealberta.ca .

Sincerely,

Fulin (Frank) Wang, President

College & Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta