



COLLEGE & ASSOCIATION OF
Acupuncturists
OF ALBERTA

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 to December 31, 2017

submitted to

Health Disciplines Board

Contents

I.	President’s Message.....	2
II.	Public Member Reports	3
III.	Introduction.....	5
IV.	Council/Committee Members and Office Staff.....	7
V.	Governance.....	9
VI.	Registration of College Members.....	11
VII.	Training Programs and Examinations.....	11
VIII.	Continuing Education Program.....	12
IX.	Complaints and Disciplines.....	12
X.	Financial Information.....	12
XI.	Other Professional Activities.....	13
XII.	Conclusion.....	13

Attachments:

- Acupuncture in Alberta: History, Status and Prospects
- Audited 2017 Financial Statements

I. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been my privilege to serve as the president of the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta. I have had the opportunity to work with many people who are passionate about the future of our profession and it has left me excited to see what's next. We are the authority for the profession and system of acupuncture, and no one other than a comprehensively trained acupuncturist has the depth of understanding of how to effectively apply this system. We must continue to work together to ensure we keep evolving no matter how far along we are. Collectively, we have the responsibility to bring the highest quality of care to all Albertans.

The entirety of 2017 passed in what seemed to be only a moment, but it was an important moment indeed for the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta. Through the support of council, committees, members, staff, and professional consultants we were able to make a positive impact on governance, policies, bylaws, examinations, and public awareness of this great profession. By the guidance and support of the Health Disciplines Board, Alberta Health, and other professional consultants we have moved closer to fully transitioning into the Health Professions Act. I am proud of our accomplishments, but we still have work to do. With our sound strategic plan, I am confident the work will continue toward a greater good and we will hold our heads high with esteem to call ourselves acupuncturists.

My wish is that 2018 is a year of continued growth and prosperity for our profession. Let us remember that some aspects of growth take time and will only be realized with patience and careful attention to a presiding vision. Acupuncture is a system that has great potential for benefiting the lives of Albertans and saving provincial healthcare dollars. There is relevance in continued research into the benefits of acupuncture and how it may integrate into collaborative healthcare. Our acupuncturists will be an asset against the opioid crisis, providing expert care in managing pain and alleviating addictions. Thank you to our stakeholders for your trust and your past and present support.

Warm regards,

Lowell Ask

II. PUBLIC MEMBER REPORTS

January 31, 2018

I have very recently been appointed to serve as a Public Member on the Council of the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta. I was very honoured to receive this appointment and look forward to participating in the continued work of the Council. It is clear to me, after attending only one meeting and reviewing background material, that the Council and staff are very dedicated to furthering the work of the profession in the Province and are diligently dealing with numerous policy and regulatory issues.

I look forward to a very productive and busy year ahead.

Cathryn Palmer, Public Member

February 23, 2018

I am pleased to announce my recent reinstatement to Council for a second term. I am exceptionally thankful to have had this experience, and for the opportunity to continue this service for another three-year term. Through my tenure on Council, I have had the privilege to work with very passionate and hardworking fellow Councilors. This past year, the CAAA has made significant progress toward the development of policies, guidelines, and structures that will be necessary for the transition of the regulation of acupuncture under the Health Professions Act. Toward this end, the CAAA has focussed on many key considerations including: re-defining and improving educational standards, and enhancing standards of competency, practice, and ethics to better serve and protect the public. Important work has also been done with policy reviews, plans to revise the Acupuncture Regulation, the standards of practice, the Code of Professional Conduct, and new registration and personnel requirements. The Council members have shown great commitment and dedication toward advancing the profession of acupuncture in the province. It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as a public member for this Council.

Dr. Carmen Lawlor, Public Member

III. INTRODUCTION

The profession of acupuncturists has been regulated in Alberta since 1988 under the *Health Disciplines Act* (hereinafter, “Act”), and used to be governed by the Acupuncture Committee under the Health Disciplines Board established under the Act.

The College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (the “CAAA”) was designated by the Minister of Health to regulate the profession of acupuncturists in the public interest, effective January 1, 2011. As the regulatory body, the CAAA is responsible to ensure that registrants meet the requirements to provide safe, competent, and ethical services to the public.

Mission Statement

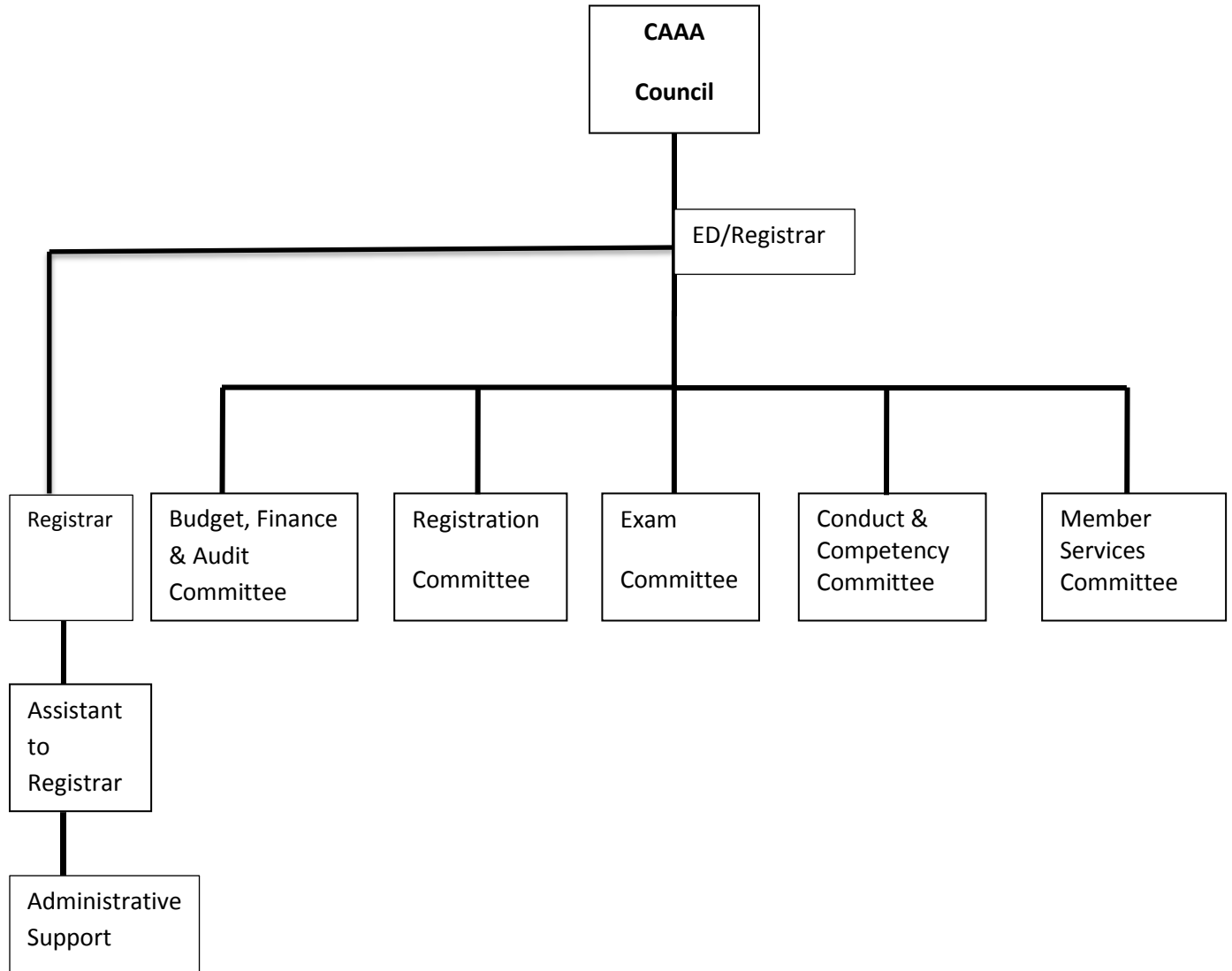
The CAAA serves the public interest and supports the acupuncture profession by setting high standards of practice, education, competence, and ethical conduct.

Vision

The CAAA is committed to excellence in the regulation and support of the Registered Acupuncturists of Alberta.

Organizational Structure

The organization structure of the CAAA is set out as below. The Council, Committees and positions are established in accordance with the *Health Disciplines Act* and the By-laws of the CAAA.



IV. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Council is elected by the membership and is responsible for the governance and management of the regulatory and business affairs of the CAAA. Council members and committee members for the year 2017 are as follows.

Council Members

Lowell Ask, President
Boxin Wanglin, Vice President
Yang Su, Treasurer
William Zhao, Director
Don Fan, Director
Colton Oswald, Director
Heather Thompson, Director
Carmen Lawlor, Public Member
Cathryn Palmer, Public Member

Registration and Program Review Committee (RPRC)

Marjorie Copithorn, Chair (resigned May 2017)
Zoe (Ying) Zhao
Michelle Phillips
Jessica Stankowski
Zhaocheng Han
Heather Thompson, Chair appointed in September 2017
Jessica McDonald, appointed in September 2017

Conduct and Competency Committee (CCC)

Marc Raedschelders, Chair
Michael McFarlane
Frank Du
Gord Ariza
Amanda Ballas (resigned May 2017)
Ann Zee
Heather Thompson
Brooke Riad (appointed September 2017)
Patricia Hull (Public Member)

Examination Committee (EC)

William Zhao, Chair
Yucheng Chen
Amanda Ballas (resigned May 2017)

Boxin Wanglin
Wenjun Dai
Zhaocheng Han (resigned August 2017)
Cherisse Osness (appointed September 2017)

Budget, Finance and Audit Committee (BFAC)

Yang Su, Chair
Boxin Wanglin
Ricky Wang

Member Services Committee (MSC)

Constantine Karamelas, Co-Chair
Margaret Kennedy, Co-Chair
Anthony Yong
Lindsay Cole
Mujun Chen
Lyla Yip
Carol Xu
Benny Xu

CAAA Office Staff

Paul Hu, Registrar/ Executive Director
Sheila Wang, Executive Assistant to Registrar
Jenney White, Administrative Assistant (employed from September 2017)
Eleanor van Gunst, Assistant to Registrar (part-time, resigned May 2017)
Phyllis Fraser, Administrative Support (retired from September 2017)

Office Location

Suite 201, 9612 – 51 Ave. NW,
Edmonton, AB T6E 5A6

Contact us:

Phone: (780) 466-7787
Fax: (780) 466-7251

Website: www.acupuncturealberta.ca

V. GOVERNANCE

As the governing body for the profession of acupuncturists, the CAAA Council has focused on protecting the public interest through development of various policies and standards. For the sustainable growth of the profession, the CAAA Council made tremendous efforts to objectively assess the challenges faced by the profession, and further outlined its vision for the profession.

Safety Handbook for Alberta Acupuncturists

Safety is of paramount importance to protect the public interest. In 2017, the CAAA developed the Safety Handbook for Alberta Acupuncturists which is intended to provide guidance for members' practice and for candidates in preparing for the registration examination. The Safety Handbook for Alberta Acupuncturists was presented to the Health Disciplines Board in June 2017 and it is available on the CAAA website at the link below:

<http://acupunctrealberta.ca/pdfs/examination/CAAA-Safety-Handbook.pdf>.

Along with the Handbook of Occupational Hazards and Controls for Alberta Acupuncturists (<http://acupunctrealberta.ca/pdfs/resources/Handbook-of-Occupational-Hazards-Controls-for-Acupuncturists.pdf>), they will provide effective guidance to members practice to enhance public safety.

Patient Records Standards

Patient records are very important documents for patients, practitioners, regulatory body and third-party agencies like insurance company. To protect the public interest, the CAAA proposed more specific standards on patient records. It was circulated to all registered acupuncturists and other regulated health professions for consultation. To assist members to understand and adopt the proposed standards, two workshops were planned before implementation of the new standards. The proposed Patient Records Standards was presented to the Health Disciplines Board in June 2017. The finalized version is available on the CAAA website at the link below:

<http://acupunctrealberta.ca/pdfs/regulations/PATIENT-RECORDS-STANDARDS.pdf>

CAAA Bylaws Amendment

The CAAA Council initiated a review of the current Bylaws in 2016 after considering the information it received from members, students, and other stakeholders. Legal advice was sought on proposed changes. Amendments were approved in July 2017 by registered members through a mail-in vote process. The amended CAAA Bylaws is available on the CAAA website at the link below:

http://acupunctrealberta.ca/pdfs/regulations/CAAA_Bylaws_Amended-July2017.pdf

Acupuncture in Alberta: History, Status and Prospects

A profession based on a solid foundation serves the public interest. Council made great efforts to learn from the past and objectively assess the challenges faced by the profession. More importantly, Council outlined a vision for the profession. The result of such efforts is reflected in the booklet titled Acupuncture in Alberta: History, Status and Prospects, attached. This report was presented to the Health Disciplines Board in June 2017, and it provides a clear direction for the development of the profession in the future.

Promotion of Acupuncture

Acupuncture has a relatively short history in the West and has remained on the margins of our health care system. Public awareness and perception of acupuncture in Alberta represents one important challenge faced by the profession of acupuncturists. To enhance public awareness of acupuncture and disseminate the information that the profession of acupuncturists is regulated, the CAAA Council approved a budget for advertising and promotion. It is hoped that more people can benefit from the health services provided by acupuncturists, and that the public is aware of the existence of a regulatory body which is mandated to serve their interest.

Safety and Jurisprudence Examination

Examination is an important instrument for the regulatory body to protect the public interest. The CAAA used to offer an online safety examination which was developed by its counterparts in British Columbia. As approved by the Health Disciplines Board, the Examination Committee of the CAAA developed its own Safety and Jurisprudence Examination in 2017 with assistance of a contracted psychometrician. The examination was successfully administered in October 2017.

Improvement of Internal Operation

A professional accounting firm was retained to do the bookkeeping which will effectively reduce the workload and cost related to financial audit. All three office staff are now full-time employees. One employee is responsible for coordinating activities related to examination and bookkeeping, the other for registration related activities. The Registrar/Executive Director is responsible to oversee the operation of the CAAA office, in addition to other statutory obligations.

Those changes greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of operation. With the growth of the profession, more paid positions will be created to move the profession forward.

VI. REGISTRATION OF COLLEGE MEMBERS

	2017
New Members	70
Full Members (including under LMA)	53
Temporary	0
Restricted	17
Transferred, Cancelled, Retired, Deceased	17
Membership Renewed (including Inactive)	690 (9)
Total Number of Registrants as of Dec. 31	743

VII. TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EXAMINATIONS

Currently, there are five acupuncture programs approved by the Health Disciplines Board, offered at:

- MacEwan University, Edmonton, since 1998
- Reeves College, Edmonton, since 2008; revised curriculum approved 2014
- Alberta College of Acupuncture & TCM, Calgary, since 2000
- Calgary College of TCM & Acupuncture, Calgary, since 2004
- Canadian Institute of TCM, Calgary, since 2004

The Alberta Acupuncturist Registration Examination consists of the following components:

- Pan-Canadian Written Examination for Acupuncturists (written format)
- Pan-Canadian Clinical Case-study Exam for Acupuncturists (written format)
- Safety and Jurisprudence Examination (written format)
- Safety Exam: Modalities (hands-on, practical)
- Safety Exam: Acupuncture Points (hands-on, practical)

The table below is a summary of candidate performance at the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination:

Components	Exam Date	Alberta Total	AB Graduates	Canada (inc AB)
Written	Oct 14, 2017	33/68 (49%)	27/56 (48%)	192/322 (60%)
Case-study	Jan 20, 2018	30/72 (42%)	25/60 (42%)	152/278 (55%)
Safety & Juris	Oct 14, 2017	38/39 (97.4%)	30/31 (96.7%)	
Modalities	Oct 14 & 15, 2017	36/42 (86%)	30/34 (88%)	
Acu Points	Oct 14 & 15, 2017	25/49 (51%)	20/41 (49%)	

VIII. CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

In accordance with the *Alberta Acupuncture Regulation*, section 4, a registered acupuncturist must have completed 50 hours of educational programs within the 2 last years to renew their registration. To help members maintain/improve their competency, the CAAA organized many continuing education events for its members.

The following CEU events were organized by the CAAA in 2017:

Date	Topic	Speaker
Feb 22 (Calgary)	Metabolism disorders balanced through TCM	Dr. William Zhao
Mar 7 (Edmonton)	Acupuncture treatment for skin problems	Dr. Boxin Wanglin
Mar 22 (Calgary)	Meridians in TCM: a closer look at the Tai Yang	Dr. Colton Oswald
Apr 2 (Edmonton)	Acupuncture treatment of mental disorders	Dr. Joseph Yang (USA)
Apr 5 (Calgary)	Introduction to Qi as an Magneto-electric Phenomenon	Terence Laverdure
Apr 12 (Edmonton)	Orthopedic Assessments for basic injury assessment	Robin Tharle-Oluk
Apr 19 (Calgary)	Metabolism disorders balanced through TCM (continued)	Dr. William Zhao
May 18 (Calgary)	Treating causes of diseases	Dr. Michael Zhao
May 24 (Calgary)	TCM Treatment for MS: A holistic and long term care	Dr. Xia Cheng
Jun 20 (Calgary)	Meridian Meditation	Dr. Michael Zhao
Jun 20 (Edmonton)	Acupuncture techniques and application	Dr. Boxin Wanglin
Jul 4 (Calgary)	Spirit of acupuncture	Dr. Xiaochuan Pan
Aug 27 (Edmonton)	Acupuncture Techniques	Dr. Biao Lu (USA)
Sep 14 (Calgary)	Incorporating Local Herbs with TCM	Dr. Shane Miller

IX. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINES

In 2017, the CAAA office received four formal complaints:

- One is about unauthorized practice of acupuncture. A cease and desist letter was issued by the legal counsel of the CAAA.
- Another one is about informed consent to treatment. The complainant alleged that she was provided acupuncture treatment without her consent. The investigation was completed. A hearing is pending.
- A third one is about unskilled practice. The complainant alleged that she was caused blisters from cupping treatments. The investigation is ongoing. A hearing is pending.
- The last one received in 2017 is about alleged insurance fraud. After preliminary investigation, it was found that the acupuncturist did nothing wrong and that the allegation was ungrounded. It was concluded with no further action.

X. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial policies are strictly followed, and financial prudence exercised. The CAAA continued to fulfill all statutory obligations while maintaining a sound financial position. An audited 2017 Financial Statements will be presented at the 2018 Annual General Meeting and be posted on the CAAA website for review. A copy of 2017 Financial Statements is enclosed.

XI. OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Investigator Training Workshop

To protect the public interest, it is very important to get the investigation done in a timely manner after a complaint is received. Also, professional knowledge of acupuncture practice and investigation skills is helpful for the Conduct and Competency Committee in their decision-making process. Therefore, an investigator training workshop was organized in 2017 to establish a pool of qualified investigators. Investigations will be conducted in a time and cost-effective manner in the future.

- Participation in Pan-Canadian Examination Activities

In 2017, the CAAA continued to participate in activities related to Pan-Canadian Examinations. Entry-level of Competency for the Practice of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine in Canada (Competency Profile) was updated after a comprehensive review and validation process. It will serve as the basis for developing examination blueprints and the examination itself, as well as provide guidance for educational programs. In addition, it will serve as a foundation to establish acupuncture as a profession rather than merely a treatment modality.

- Transition to the Health Professions Act

The CAAA has been working with Alberta Health to transition the governance of the profession from the Health Disciplines Act to the Health Professions Act. Hope the transition can be completed as soon as possible so that the Council can govern and regulate the profession more efficiently and effectively.

XII. CONCLUSION

In 2017, the CAAA has achieved great progress based on better understanding of the challenges identified by the Council. However, some problems have accumulated for many years and it will take time to address them. With an unwavering commitment to high standards of practice, competence, education and ethical conduct, the CAAA will continue to move the profession forward in the best interest of the public.