

What's happening at the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta...

# Update for Members

September, 2022



It's fall again in our province. As the weather changes and a new school year begins, it's a great time to stop and take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the College and where it is headed in the future.

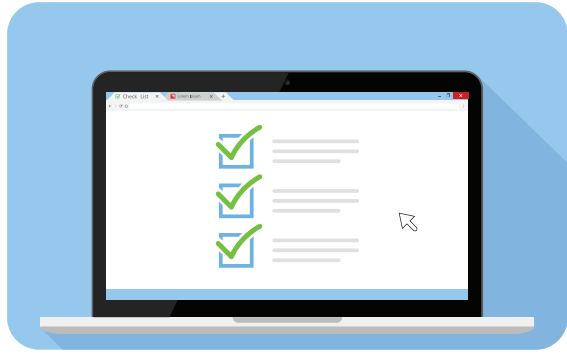
I am excited to share some of these reflections with you and hope you share my enthusiasm for the bright future of the acupuncture profession.

As always, I am also interested in your thoughts and suggestions on how we can improve the public's safety while enhancing the standards of the acupuncture profession. Please reach out with any questions or comments to [info@acupuncturealberta.ca](mailto:info@acupuncturealberta.ca).

*Erin Stroud*  
Executive Director & Registrar



## 2022-23 RENEWAL CYCLE



### The Renewal Fee Schedule is Changing

Membership renewal fees for the 2023-24 cycle will be the same as last year - \$1200. However, this will be required to be paid in full in a single payment. Registration will open February 1, 2023 and will close on March 31, 2023. We are providing this advanced notice so you can plan for the payment accordingly.



### Continuing Competency

The College continues to modernize and will soon be launching a new member portal capability that will make reporting on continuing competency requirements fast and easy for our members.

You can look forward to learning more about the continuing competency program as well as how to report on your competency requirements in a separate communication.

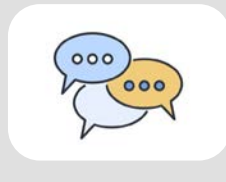
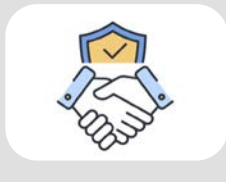
For now, I want to assure you that instructions will be provided ahead of time and that the College will be providing support as you navigate this upcoming change.



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

### Going Back to School

During September, I am meeting with leaders at Educational institutions that offer acupuncture programs in Alberta. These introductory meetings allowed me to build upon my knowledge of the acupuncture profession and the unique needs of both students and educators in this field. Meeting with these stakeholders and building relationships means more opportunities for communication, and I am eager to continue engaging and working together to keep the acupuncture profession strong.



## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Andrea Snow Complaints Director

I am pleased to announce that Andrea Snow has been hired as the College's new Complaints Director. Andrea possesses over 15 years of experience in the regulatory environment and in the enforcement of the Code of Ethics for professionals. She has also represented industry professionals at the provincial level to create harmonized rules and in the creation of provincial agreements.

She has a passion for helping people, which drives her motivation to reach resolutions amicably and efficiently whenever possible. She is known and respected for customer satisfaction and equity throughout dispute resolution processes.

When she is off work, she takes every opportunity to spend time with family and enjoys baking with her grandchildren. Her family's motto is "always be nice" and while she takes the enforcement of the Code very seriously, especially when it involves the safety of Albertans, she will do so with this motto in mind.

I am excited to have Andrea join our team and know that her extensive knowledge will be of great value to the College.



### Danielle Tanios Director of Communications and Administration



I am also happy to announce that Danielle Tanios has been hired into the new position of Director of Communications and Administration. Danielle joins the College with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors in strategic communication roles.

Danielle is motivated by supporting others and knows that skillful communication can make a big difference in an organization. She believes that good communication is the foundation of a well-run organization and is excited to use her skills to enhance relationships with our membership, the public, and the government.

Danielle is kept busy in her offtime with her two young daughters. She also loves playing board games, spending time with friends and extended family, and getting outside to play in the soil and tend to her flower garden.

I look forward to the improvements Danielle is going to bring to the College and the value she is going to add for our members.

## MAKING THE COLLEGE STRONGER

### Improving our Governance to Reflect our Accountability

Since November of 2021, a lot of work has taken place to establish a full suite of governance documents for the College. We've amended the Bylaws, built a Council Charter, and established a policy framework that reflects best practice in the regulatory environment. Our governance policies are approved and are published on our [website](#), increasing accessibility and transparency. Having strong policies and processes in place and making them publicly available to all helps to keep everyone accountable and enables effective and efficient management.

### Our First Strategic Plan

In August, the Council engaged in a thoughtful and fulsome strategic planning session. The results of which will form the foundation of the College's first Strategic Plan. There is more work to do, but I am planning to share this complete plan with members before the end of 2022. Having a long-term vision for the College will outline a clear path for our future and allow us to sharpen our focus.

### Council Appointments

This fall, the Council will be conducting their inaugural Council appointment cycle. This replaces the previous election approach.

These competency-based appointments will ensure the College fulfills another recommendation coming out the governance review that was conducted by an independent, third party in 2021. The recommendation was identified based on current best practices at other Colleges.

Competency-based appointments will ensure the College is serving the public's best interest and that the Council is comprised of a diverse group of people with a wide range of expertise, skills, knowledge, and perspectives.

