



## **A short history of TCM becoming a designated health profession in British Columbia**

Acupuncturists trained under Traditional Chinese Medicine first began to lobby the British Columbia provincial government in the early seventies for regulation (designation as a health profession). In the following two decades, various individuals and associations have conducted briefings and events aimed at educating policy makers who, by and large, viewed the treatment with curiosity. During the fall of 1991, five associations of acupuncturists, representing a total of 236 practitioners, applied to the Health Professions Council for designation under the *Health Professions Act*.

A public hearing was held in Vancouver on October 27, 1992. The Council's investigation of acupuncture included a consultation process with related professions, consumer groups, and other interested parties as well as research on the practice of acupuncture and its regulation in other jurisdictions.

At around the same time in 1992, the Traditional Chinese Medicine Association of British Columbia (TCMABC) submitted an application for designation of TCM as a self-regulating health profession. In 1996 when acupuncture was designated, a second application was submitted by the Canadian SinoBiology Practitioners Association (CSPA) and a third by the Pacific Region TCM Practitioner and Acupuncturist Society (PRTCMPAS). Each applicant indicated a willingness to work cooperatively in the event that TCM was designated as a health profession.

The Council recommended in 1993 that acupuncture be designated as a health profession. In 1996, the Acupuncture Regulation was created under the Health Professions Act and the College of Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CABC) was formed to administer the regulation.

Since its formation in 1996, the College of Acupuncturists (CABC) has seen many rocky days. Its bylaws drafting was stalled by heated debates ranging from the method of grandparenting acupuncturists to whether TCM should be administered under one college if and when TCM were designated. The Professional Health Council also noted that "the first Board of the College of Acupuncturists to establish bylaws were frustrated by lack of knowledge on the part of some members of the acupuncture practitioner community as to the meaning of governance of the profession in the public interest; and the difficult task of establishing a governing body due to the lack of previous experience (*in the history of TCM*) dealing with this form of regulation."

A public hearing was held by the Health Professions Council on October 9 and 10, 1997 regarding the designation of TCM. After careful study of the submissions and the testimony at the public hearing, the Council concluded that TCM is the philosophical tradition from which acupuncture, herbology, and the other primary TCM therapies derive their theoretical bases and standards of practice. The Council believes that it is more appropriate that one college governs both practitioners of TCM and acupuncture.

In June 1999, the Government announced the creation of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of B.C. (CTCMA). A full-time registrar was appointed. The associated regulation was passed in December 2000.

The first group of 68 registered acupuncturists was granted the title in December 1999. A two-year registration grace period for acupuncture ended in June 2001. This period overlapped slightly with another two-year registration grace period for TCM which ended in April 2003.



The College is indebted to all previous board members and dedicated individuals:

<b>1996:</b>	Sheila Gallagher (Chair), Liping Cai, May Twin Chu, Andy Soo Hoo, Andrea Jones, Sunny Lee, Les Lewchuk, Grant Smith, Mary Watterson.
<b>1997:</b>	Grant Smith (Chair), replaced by Mason Loh, above names remained the same.
<b>1998:</b>	Mason Loh (Chair), Liping Cai, Andy Soo Hoo, Sunny Lee, Evon Soong, Sheila Stickney.
<b>1999 to Aug/2002:</b>	Mason Loh (Chair), Warren Fischer, David Li Lam, Nafisa Lakhani, Henry Lu, Evon Soong, Sheila Stickney, Douglas Ying, Harvey Yequan Zhu
<b>2003:</b>	Mason Loh (Chair), Ting Ting Jiang, Tom Kong, Sunny Lee, Glenn Morezewich, Tamineh Nikookar, Carole Anne Soong, Philippe Souvestre, Angus Yuen.
<b>2004:</b>	Mason Loh (Chair), Ting Ting Jiang, Tom Kong, Sunny Lee, Glenn Morezewich, Tamineh Nikookar, Philippe Souvestre, Angus Yuen, Arthur Lee.
<b>2005:</b>	Mason Loh (Chair), Arthur Lee, Arden Henley, Philippe Souvestre, Catherine Cameron, Jenny Hu, John Yang, Karen Stewart, Mary Jian Hua Wang.
<b>2006:</b>	Arden Henley(Chair), Philippe Souvestre (Vice Chair), Arthur Lee, Catherine Cameron, Jenny Hu, John Yang, Karen Stewart, Mary Jian Hua Wang.
<b>2007:</b>	Arden Henley(Chair), Michael Chung (Vice Chair), Arthur Lee, Juliana Yung, Jenny Hu, Ann Yuan, Glenn Morezewich, Philippe Souvestre. Chun Yung Tong,
<b>2008:</b>	Arden Henley(Chair), Michael Chung (Vice Chair), William MacLeod, Vivienne Stewart, Jenny Hu, Ann Yuan, Glenn Morezewich, Philippe Souvestre. Chun Yung Tong,