

## **Statement attributable to Health Minister, Josie Osborne**

“After hearing the thoughtful feedback of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners, I have directed the Ministry to make changes to the TCM regulations under the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA) to clarify that activities related to Chinese herbal formulae are restricted and fall under the purview of regulated/licensed traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, doctors of traditional Chinese medicine, and traditional Chinese medicine herbalists.

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and acupuncture are important health professions in our province, relied upon by many people to support their health and well-being.

As part of the modernization of the Health Professions Act, the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA) was developed with the aim to improve public protection and safety in the health system. New profession-specific regulations were also developed, with no intended change to the scope of practice for traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners and acupuncturists who are authorized to provide health services under the governing legislation.

Feedback from TCM practitioners clearly indicates that the new regulation governing their activities requires greater clarity to ensure public protection is not compromised. It is important that we get the regulation right – not only for public safety, but also the integrity of the profession.

I understand that traditional Chinese medicine is important to many people and communities in B.C., which is why our government funded the establishment of Canada’s first public bachelor’s degree program in TCM at Kwantlen Polytechnic University to help strengthen the long-term development of the workforce.

I want to sincerely thank everyone who supports B.C.’s TCM professionals, Kwantlen Polytechnic University’s TCM department, The British Columbia Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioners (ATCMA), training institutes, the College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC, and Minister Anne Kang for sharing their knowledge and expertise with me at this time.”

## **Quotes**

### **Anne Kang, MLA for Burnaby Centre:**

“I would like express my gratitude to Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners and the wider TCM community for their thoughtful care for British Columbians and for their

advocacy on this topic. In particular, I would like to thank the Kwantlen Polytechnic University TCM department, the first public post secondary institution to offer Bachelors of TCM in BC, for their continued voice and advice. I would also like to thank Minister Josie Osborne for listening to advocates, such as The Canadian TCM Development Alliance. I'm proud that B.C. continues to be a leader in TCM regulations."

**Sharmen Lee, Dean, Faculty of Health, Kwantlen Polytechnic University:**

"We sincerely thank Minister Osborne and her staff for their leadership for listening and responding to the concerns raised by the Traditional Chinese Medicine community. The clarity provided regarding the professions authorizes to prescribe Traditional Chinese Medicine herbal formulae in British Columbia underscores Minister Osborne's strong commitment to patient safety. This direction emphasizes the importance of ensuring only those with the appropriate education and skills are authorized to prescribe TCM herbal formulae for the protection of patient safety. It is refreshing to have a government that listens, collaborates, and delivers results for patients and practitioners across the province. Minister Kang's deep and familial knowledge of Traditional Chinese Medicine has been critical in establishing and now securing the professional standards that Kwantlen Polytechnic University is proud to teach".