



British Columbia Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioners

卑詩省中醫針灸師公會

#404 – 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC V6C 3E2 Canada

Tel: (604)-428-6226

info@atcma.org

<http://www.atcma.org>

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Dear Member,

BC Registered Acupuncturists, TCM practitioners and Doctors have been waiting for 22 years to have our Scope of Practice reviewed and updated to reflect our current clinical practices. The Ministry of Health has continually delayed approval of proposed amendments that would allow the CTCMA to update our Scope of Practice. 24 of the 26 regulated health professions in BC have now had their scope of practice modernised to line up with the Health Professions Act, yet we are left waiting for no apparent logical reason.

The longer we are left to wait the more vulnerable we become. Case-in-point: some ATCMA members have recently received cease and desist letters for practices in which they are trained and for which they are certified and insured. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC is declaring that certain therapies performed by CTCMA registrants constitutes "practising medicine". One of these therapies is PDO thread lifting for facelifts. The CTCMA stopped the use of PDO thread lifting several years ago, but certain registrants continuing to use these techniques caused the CPSBC to scrutinize and challenge other procedures we use. The CPSBC does not appear to object to CTCMA registrants performing Point Injection Therapy, but it is not currently in our Scope of Practice and is therefore vulnerable to challenge. The fact that the CPSBC lens is now on our profession reinforces the need to update our Scope of Practice before the amalgamation of Colleges occurs. **You may not be practicing PIT, but did you know that even compounding TCM herbs and Tui-Na are not listed as restricted acts under our Scope of Practice? This could lead to major challenges for a majority of registrants when we amalgamate if our scope is not updated now.**

We need a forceful, cohesive voice calling on the BC government to direct the Ministry of Health to approve our long-overdue scope update. Anne Kang, MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake, presented a motion on this in the BC legislature in August. The next sitting of the legislature is October 6-8, and we need you to gather as many signatures as possible on the attached petition and mail hard copies to the ATCMA office (we must provide hard copies, not electronic copies). We will not stop there, but we are aiming for a surge in signatures before the next meeting of parliament.

To-Do List:

1. Get the petition signed by patients and supporters of acupuncture and TCM. Mail as many signed petitions as you can so that they arrive at the ATCMA office by October 1.
2. Continue to get as many petitions signed and patient letters written as possible and send them to the ATCMA on an ongoing basis. We need the originals.

3. Contact your MLA and ask for a meeting to discuss TCM/Acupuncture and the urgent need for our scope of practice update.

The ATCMA needs your support and action to accomplish this long-overdue amendment to the Acupuncture and TCM Scope of Practice. The CTCMA must have the power to update and regulate what our profession actually does in 2020. Delaying this further puts us at risk of untenable scope restrictions once the amalgamation of regulatory colleges comes into effect. Failure to act now could spell disaster in the future.

Thank you,

The ATCMA