



## **CTCMPAO Doctor Title Project**

### **Summary of Phase 1 Final Report: Environmental Scan**

#### **Background**

Phase 1 of the Doctor Title Project was to conduct an environmental scan to consult with stakeholders from the public, TCM schools, associations, members, government, other health professional regulatory bodies. The purpose of this phase was to gauge perceptions on the Doctor Title in traditional Chinese medicine and seek input for expectations on the development of competencies, an assessment process, and class entry requirements, such as education, experience and training.

In October 2017, the College engaged R. A. Malatest & Associates to assist the College in conducting the environmental scan.

In November of 2019, the College's Doctor Title Working Group received and reviewed the final report on the environmental scan, bringing a close to Phase 1 of the project.

#### **Report**

The report focused on:

- Perceived benefits of a Doctor Class to TCM users and the Ontario healthcare system, including changes in scope of practice if they are perceived as a benefit;
- Communications strategies about the Doctor Class among other professions and the public;
- Class entry requirements;
- Gauging levels of support for a Doctor Class and;
- Trends in TCM and healthcare in general.

As a result of the findings, Malatest has made a number of recommendations to the Working Group. These include:

- Set a very high Educational Equivalency standard, with well over ten years practice experience, to ensure the College meets the expectations of a high level of education.
- Set a minimum of two years Post Secondary Education training in a relevant area of education.
- Ensure that schooling from an approved program is a requirement that must be met for entry into the Doctor Class.
- Implement program approval or at least an approved Doctor Class Bridging program.
- Work to create a knowledge and language exchange program among Registrants to assist Registrants to help each other enter the Doctor Class. The Working Group must consider who will teach the Doctor Class.
- For those who have a high level of experience, an alternate registration route should be made available for them. However, it is recommended that Ontario does not use the Grandparenting method used in BC, as their standards were not high enough.



- The college must verify credentials for fraud, diploma mills and accredited or approved institutions to align with standards set by every other profession that uses the Doctor Title in Ontario.
- A majority of the Public (55%) indicated that TCM providers using the Doctor Title would not change their use of TCM services. As such, it may be worthwhile to communicate with the public about the benefits of a Doctor Class of TCM providers to the public health system overall.