



The Alliance of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine of Canada (AACMC)

加拿大中医针灸联盟

March 2nd, 2022

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Delivered via email to: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford,

On February 28, 2022, we, the Alliance of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine of Canada (AACMC), were shocked to learn the Ontario provincial government's plan to "wind down the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO)."

With regards to the first reading of the Working for Workers Act, 2022 - the proposed de-regulation of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture - I and my organization's professional members are reacting to such an irresponsible and ill-conceived proposal with genuine astonishment, utter dismay and complete disappointment.

As per the Ontario Government Newsroom press release, Schedule 5 of *Bill 88, Traditional Chinese Medicine Repeal Act, 2022* is intended to "Reduce barriers in the provision of traditional Chinese medicine while ensuring consumer protection in the delivery of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture services."

However, Schedule 5, *Bill 88, Traditional Chinese Medicine Repeal Act, 2022* will not deliver better protections for your constituents, the general public, especially those constituents who choose to improve and support their health by accessing traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture, nor will it provide bigger pay cheques and opportunities for members of the profession. In fact, the *TCM Repeal Act, 2022* will have the exact opposite effect.

Therefore, on behalf of my organization, I am compelled to communicate our vehement opposition to the de-regulation of Ontario's Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) healthcare industry and bring to your attention this most important matter for your immediate review and reconsideration.

TCM practitioners and acupuncturists are members of honourable professions that require intensive training of at least 3-4 years. Practitioners must be thoroughly trained and highly skilled to perform acupuncture and to write TCM formulas to avoid potential risks to patients.

Careful regulation is a must to protect public safety and to maintain public confidence in the fields of acupuncture and TCM, not only in theory, but in practice. Acupuncturists and TCM practitioners are respectable and responsible healthcare professionals. We care deeply about people and their health and we have earned the trust and support of the public.

With the CTCMPAO in place, the 2616 registered and qualified professional acupuncturists and TCM practitioners in Ontario have been safely and proudly serving the public for the past 9 years with integrity and standardization.



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Yet with the proposed de-regulation of TCM and acupuncture professionals, our integrity is at great risk of being compromised; our high standards of health care and its honourable practice would be made questionable in the minds of the public and therefore would court controversy and a lack of public trust; and the great progress we, as a vital health care industry, have remarkably achieved in less than a decade, would be hopelessly lost.

The credibility and reputation of all competent acupuncturists and TCM practitioners would be severely jeopardized. The value and benefit of Chinese medicine, which offers and delivers on its commitment to provide quality, safe and effective health and wellness alternatives to Ontarians, would be forever underestimated at best and mistrusted at worst.

The value of TCM and acupuncture cannot be lost in the sea of alternative medicine. Its incomparable effectiveness can only be realized by strict regulations and evaluated by professionals. Its integrity must be reinforced by the Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, and the CTCMPAO must remain in place to ensure public trust and safety.

Please help our profession. Please listen to our serious concerns and speak up for us on this matter! Schedule 5 of Bill 88, Traditional Chinese Medicine Repeal Act, 2022 of the Working for Workers Act must be removed!

We stand with all Ontario's Acupuncturists and TCM practitioners!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Guojian Huang, *R. Ac, R. TCMP, PhD*,
President of AACMC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Guojian Huang", written in a fluid, cursive style.