

Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy Naturopathy

November 14, 2007

Update: Regulation of Naturopathic Medicine under the RHPA

Registrants will no doubt be aware that the *Naturopathy Act, 2006*, which brings the Naturopathic profession under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*, was given Royal Assent in June, 2007. Royal Assent marks another step in the journey towards regulation under the RHPA, but it is certainly not the last one.

A Transitional Council must be established to develop the basic regulations and by-laws that are required to regulate the profession under the new College of Naturopathy. This requires "proclamation" (i.e. giving legal force and effect) to those sections of the *Naturopathy Act* that pertain to the Transitional Council. The Transitional Council will be appointed by the Ontario government and will include members of the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy - Naturopathy. A Transitional Registrar will also be appointed by the government. The BDDT-N will continue to operate as before and alongside the Transitional Council until the new College is fully functional. When it is ready to begin operations the Board will be folded into the College of Naturopathy. Until that time Registrants will continue to be regulated under the *Drugless Practitioners Act* and will be required to abide by the regulations under the old Act.

The regulations to be developed by the Transitional Council include, but are certainly not limited to, registration, performance of controlled acts and professional misconduct. Some regulations will take effect immediately, e.g. registration, and others will be applicable only after proclamation of the remainder of the *Naturopathy Act*, e.g. misconduct. By-laws will be developed pertaining to registration fees, elections to the first elected Council as well as provisions relating to the public register. As required under the RHPA, members of the profession and other stakeholders, including other professions, will have the opportunity to comment on the draft regulations. Once the regulations have been developed by the Transitional Council and have gone through the consultation process, they will be submitted to the Ministry for review. If the Ministry approves, they will be sent to Cabinet (the Lieutenant Governor in Council) for approval.

We have emphasized before and will continue to emphasize that NDs are still regulated by the BDDT-N under the *Drugless Practitioners Act*. This will continue until the day the new College begins operations. This means that anticipated changes such as the authority to use the Dr. title will **not** be in place until after proclamation of the *Naturopathy Act*.

It is difficult to predict how long this process will take. Advertisements will likely soon appear for applications to serve on the Transitional Council, as well as for the Transitional Councils for homeopathy, kinesiology and psychotherapy. Applicants will be screened, background checks will be performed and interviews conducted for short-listed candidates. It is anticipated that the Transitional Councils will be appointed in late March or early April, 2008. Thereafter, it is largely up to each individual Council to determine how quickly things proceed. There is a significant amount of work to be done, much of which involves consultation and collaboration with other professions and with the Ministry. Although it could occur sooner, it is unlikely that the new College of Naturopathy will be operational much before the end of 2009 or early 2010.

While the Board will continue to regulate the profession under the old Act over the next two years or so, we intend where feasible to operate like an RHPA college to the extent possible within the limitations of the DPA and the resources available to us. Until the Transitional Council is fully operational, we will do our best to keep our Registrants fully informed and up-to-date on the steps being taken to complete the journey of bringing the naturopathic profession under the RHPA.