



## COLLEGE OF CHIROPODISTS OF ONTARIO

*Regulating Chiropodists and Podiatrists in Ontario*

March 1, 2018

Allison Henry  
Director,  
Health Workforce Planning and Regulatory Oversight Branch,  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 56 Wellesley Street,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 2J3

Dear Ms. Henry:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me and with the other representatives of the College by telephone on February 27, 2018. As you know, these representatives included myself as the President, the Vice President, the Registrar, Government Relations Advisor and Legal Counsel to the College.

We listened very carefully to your comments, which we took as an indication that the Ministry is interested in pursuing changes to the profession approved by Council which are in the best interest of the public and of Ontario's healthcare delivery system.

You indicated that nothing can be done before June of this year in terms of the amendments to the *Chiropody Act* and the consequential amendments that the College prepared and submitted to the Ministry at the request of the Minister's office late last year. You asked what changes might be made, short of amending the *Chiropody Act*, to make progress towards the goals of better patient care and access, as a first step.

After our conversation, we consulted with the Executive Committee. The College considered your suggestion of the creation of what you called an "advanced practice chiropodist". As you know, this would require a new regulation be passed by the College, that it be circulated to members for at least 60 days and subsequent final passage by the College before it could even be submitted to the Minister of Health and Long-term Care and the Cabinet. In light of the fact that we have had amendments to our Registration Regulation before the Ministry for seven years, the Executive Committee asked how realistic this proposal really is.

Nonetheless, the College is not averse to considering any option that is in the public interest, but before responding, the College would have to understand fully what additional authorizations you have in mind to be given to these professionals. I believe we agreed in our conversation that the regulation could not provide the suggested "advanced practice chiropodists" with the ability to do any authorized acts currently authorized only to Podiatrists under the existing legislation. On the other hand, amendments to the Controlled Act Regulation made under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* and the Laboratories Regulation and the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act* could provide additional authorities to members and thereby provide more accessible, cost-effective, convenient and timely patient-centered care, in line with the Patients First initiative, via the authority to order diagnostic tests such as laboratory

tests and controlled forms of energy such as MRI's and the applying and/or ordering the application of diagnostic ultrasound.

If this is the direction of the Ministry, the result could be achieved by making changes to the Controlled Act Regulation made under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* and the *Laboratories Regulation* and the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act*, all of which were provided to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, along with the proposed new *Podiatry Act*.

We would be pleased to discuss the specifics of those proposed changes with you.

I am sure that it was apparent to you in the conversation that the College is very frustrated by the current state of affairs. This frustration has been caused by a number of matters which we outlined to you in our conversation, namely:

1. In July 2006, then Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Mr. Smitherman) determined that a review of the podiatry and chiropody professions was called for. That review was postponed three times by the Ministry and didn't actually get underway until January 2015.
2. We could not have been more disappointed to hear you say that you had no political direction to pursue scope of practice or any other changes with respect to chiropody and podiatry at this time. You, of course, are aware of the **Health Bulletin** issued on September 20, 2017 ("*Province Taking Steps to Expand Healthcare Professionals' Responsibilities and Roles*"). Although not among the professions specifically named in that **Bulletin**, we were given verbal and written assurances at the time by the Minister's Senior Policy Advisor that chiropody and podiatry were in fact included in the commitment to expand the scope of practice and were covered by the **Bulletin's** reference "... as well as other health care providers". By virtue of those assurances the College spent considerable time and resources preparing the package of statutory and regulation amendments that were submitted to the Ministry in November of last year.
3. The College submitted a Drug Regulation to the Ministry nearly three years ago, and there has been no substantial progress on this despite the fact that the changes are needed to provide appropriate and efficient care to patients.
4. The College's Registration Regulation has also seen no progress after it was provided to the Ministry seven years ago, despite assurances in writing that the Ministry would expedite it if the College would pass the labour mobility amendments that were needed by the Government separate from the balance of the proposed regulation (which the College did).
5. The College's Professional Misconduct Regulation was submitted to the Ministry seven years ago, and no substantive response has been received from the Ministry to date.
6. The College has frequently requested status updates on these proposed Regulations/ Amendments and has made every effort to provide the Ministry with everything it needs to go forward with them, only to be told that they are not really aware of what is causing the delay in passage.

I think it fair to say and I hope you will agree that the College has been both patient and accommodating in light of the Ministry's lack of action on several fronts.

The College continues to be of the view that a comprehensive package of legislative changes is required in order to provide adequate patient access and care. Nevertheless, the College

would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss any interim steps to move forward with its stated goals, provided they are reasonably achievable and would advance the public interest.

We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding the above matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Millicent Vorkapich-Hill, DPM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Millicent Vorkapich-Hill, DPM  
President

cc: Policy Analyst Agnese Bianchi

