



Leaders in Osteopathic Care

The Ontario Association of Osteopathic Manual Practitioners (OAO)

The OAO was established in 1999 as a voluntary, not-for-profit, professional association. We are a not-for-profit Corporation, registered with Industry Canada, under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. The OAO is one of six provincial members of the Canadian Federation of Osteopaths.

Our Vision is – Osteopathy: A trusted choice for health and wellness.

Our Mission is - Committed to fostering the practice and professional advancement of osteopathy in Ontario.

Our Statement of Purpose is as follows:

1. To promote the practice of osteopathy in the Province of Ontario;
2. To develop, establish and maintain standards for the safe, effective and ethical practice of osteopathy by members in Ontario, consistent with the public interest;
3. To seek support in Ontario for the enactment of legislation by the government to regulate osteopathy by non-physician practitioners of osteopathy in Ontario, under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, or otherwise;
4. To make representation and submissions to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council, the Government of Ontario, and others for enactment of such legislation;
5. To represent and advocate the position of the members in Ontario, consistent with the public interest in safe and effective and ethical osteopathic health care, before administrative tribunals, health institutions, other professional associations, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, regulatory colleges, the provincial and federal governments and to the public;
6. To provide continuing education programs in order to advance the knowledge of osteopathy in Ontario; and
7. To promote the common interest and activities of the members in Ontario.

The OAO's major activities include:

- An advocacy body that promotes the goals of our members - Osteopathic Manual Practitioners;
- An educational resource for the public, health care professional associations, other health care professionals, governments and the insurance industry;
- A support organization for our members – Osteopathic Manual Practitioners, students of osteopathic manual therapy and individuals who have an interest in our work;
- A provincial voice for our members;
- A professional practice organization;
- The provider of entry-to-practice standards, ethics, and competency documentation; and
- Consultants on osteopathy curriculum and entry-to-practice standards.

The OAO has six member classes: active, affiliate, inactive, student, supporting and research members. The OAO currently has 260 active (who reside/work in Ontario) and affiliate (who reside/work outside of Ontario) members. Affiliate members are located in several Canadian provinces. The OAO accepts internationally educated professionals as active and affiliate members if they are graduates of an OAO Board of directors approved educational institution.

The OAO contracts with a part-time Executive Director, association management staff, a bookkeeper as well as legal and other consultants.

OAO publications include a Code of Ethics, a 64-item Competency Profile and a brochure for our members. We are currently developing a Standards of Practice document, and performance indicators & learning objectives to complement our Competency Profile. Subsequent to the development of performance indicators and learning objectives to achieve an integrated Competency Profile, we will develop a competency-based examination.

In Ontario, only members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario are legally permitted to use the restricted title 'osteopath' as per the Medicine Act, 1991.

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