



Osteopathic International Alliance
Clearinghouse

CANADA

Osteopathy in Canada 2013

There are ten Provinces and three territories in Canada and each has its own Legislation and Regulations for Healthcare. Osteopathy is currently an unregulated profession in Canada. In most provinces title protection for the osteopathic or DO designation lies with these regulatory bodies; the province of Quebec, with over one thousand osteopaths practicing there, is engaged with the provincial association in the process of regulation but this is not completed. The province of Nova Scotia is also currently working towards regulation with the osteopathic association there. Osteopathic medicine is regulated in some provinces by provincial Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

By law, only a DO registered with the respective College of Physicians and Surgeons is entitled to use the designations “osteopath”, “osteopathic physician” or DO in at least the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario and the U.S. DO degree is part of the national standard for licensure developed by the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada.

Schools of osteopathy: There are no accredited schools of osteopathy in Canada. To be registered with a provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons, one must be a graduate of a college accredited by the American Osteopathic Association. There is currently no pathway for graduates of international schools of osteopathy to have their credentials recognized in Canada.

Province or Territory:

ALBERTA

In Alberta the title osteopath is reserved for osteopathic physicians. Non physician osteopaths use the title Osteopathic Manual Therapists. Their professional association is **The Alberta Association of Osteopathic Manual Therapists**. They can be contacted at: AAOMT, 2206 33rd ST S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3E 2T1.
Website: www.osteopathyalberta.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The title Osteopath is reserved in BC for members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The title used by practitioners here is Osteopathic Practitioner. The Professional Association in BC is **The Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy**. They can be contacted at: SPMPO, 8274 West Coast Rd. Sooke, BC V9Z 1E1

Web address: www.osteopathy.bc

NOVA SCOTIA

The professional association in Nova Scotia is **The Nova Scotia Association of Osteopaths**. They can be contacted at: 1446 Dresden Row, Halifax NS B3J 3T5
Web Address: www.novascotiaosteopaths.ca

ONTARIO

The title osteopath is reserved in Ontario for osteopathic physicians who are members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Practitioners here use the title Osteopathic Manual Practitioner. The provincial professional association is the **Ontario Association of Osteopathic Manual Practitioners**. They can be contacted at: 1-189 Queen St. East, Toronto, ON M5A 1S2 **Tel:** 416-968-2563. Website: www.osteopathyontario.org

QUEBEC

The largest number of osteopaths in Canada is in Quebec where they use the title Osteopath without restriction. The province is currently undergoing the process of regulating osteopathy. The two largest professional organisations, the **Association des Ostéopathes du Québec (ADOQ)** and the **Registre des Ostéopathes de Québec (ROQ)** have merged in December 2012 to become **Ostéopathie Québec**. Contact information is:

601-3875 rue Saint-Urbain

Montréal, QC H2W 1V1

Tel: 514-770-5043

and also:

447, rue St-Jean

Longueuil, QC J4H 2Y1

Tel: 450-670-1532

Website: www.osteopathiequebec.ca

Organisations/Associations:

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF OSTEOPATHS

This is an “organization of organizations”, made up of each of the provincial associations who have representatives on its board of directors. General information about osteopathy in Canada can be found on their website.

Web address: www.osteopathy.ca

In three provinces the title “osteopath” is reserved for osteopathic physicians who are members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in that province (see below)

Not all provinces currently have qualified, practicing osteopaths and professional associations, those that have are listed below.

Members in the above professional associations must meet the minimum training guidelines set out in the World Health Organisation ‘Benchmarks’

Training for osteopaths in Canada is in private institutions and typically is a five year, part time, post graduate training for students who already have a previous healthcare qualification. Full time programs are becoming more available.

Text contributed from Gail Abernethy, Vice President of the Canadian Federation of Osteopaths.