

To whom it may concern:

Alberta Health has recently become aware of a letter that is being sent to students in manual osteopathy programs advising that Manual Osteopathy is now a regulated health profession in Canada and the USA.

I want to assure you that practitioners of manual osteopathy are **not regulated** under Alberta's *Health Professions Act*, nor does Alberta recognize regulation through State of Southern Cherokee Nation and the Red Fire People (SCNRFP) including its ability to impose a fine of \$50,000.

The ability to regulate professions is considered a provincial responsibility in Canada. Alberta has a number of health professions which are or will be regulated under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). This includes the profession of physicians, surgeons, osteopaths and physician assistants which is governed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA). The osteopaths who are governed by the CPSA are trained in the United States and provide many of the same services as physicians. While osteopaths are regulated under the HPA, practitioners of manual osteopathy are not.

I would also like to remind practitioners of manual osteopathy that they are subject to other provincial laws, especially the provisions for restricted activities. These are health services that may only be provided by practitioners who are authorized to do so through regulation or who practice under the supervision of authorized practitioners. These restricted activities include

- performing invasive procedures below the dermis,
- setting fractures,
- reducing the dislocation of a joint (other than fingers or toes),
- prescribing drugs, or
- performing a deliberate, brief, fast thrust to move the joints of the spine beyond the normal range but within the anatomical range of motion, which generally results in an audible click or pop.

If you have questions about the regulation of health professions in Alberta, please contact Andrew Douglas, Director, Professional Regulation at 780 422-8860 or by email at Andrew.douglas@gov.ab.ca

Sincerely,

Ali Abdelrahman

Ali Abdelrahman
Executive Director
Professional Regulation and Physician Workforce Branch