

# The COA Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Canadian Osteopathic Association



## COA Newsletter Highlights

*Congratulations to the new  
DO graduates!*

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**COA**  
Canadian Osteopathic Association

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COA BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

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BIOGRAPHY  
PROFILES OF  
COA MEMBERS

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LICENSURE  
IN CANADA

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HELPFUL LINKS

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DO EDUCATION

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MEMBERSHIP INFO

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### CONTACT US

18-16945 Leslie St  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 9A2  
osteopathic.ca@gmail.com

# Important Figures in COA

## Dr. Ted Findlay

FAMILY PHYSICIAN, ALBERTA  
SPECIAL INTEREST IN MUSCULOSKELETAL MEDICINE

Dr. Ted Findlay is a second generation DO, son of an osteopathic physician who returned to practice in Canada in the 1950's, a time when there were over 200 DO's in practice in the country. That number declined steeply as those retired, and there was a lack of replacements due to an inability to establish proper registration as physicians with equal practice rights. Ted was born in Peterborough Ontario, spent most of his school years in Montreal and then attended the University of Waterloo, after which he departed for the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, from which he graduated in 1985. While a student at OUCOM he became involved with the Canadian Osteopathic Association and advocacy efforts to allow a pathway to return to Canada with full practice rights.

These initiatives were successful in part, and led to the ability of DO's to apply for family medicine residency positions in Alberta and British Columbia in the mid 1980's. After completing a DO rotating internship in Michigan Dr. Findlay performed a residency in Family Medicine at the University of Calgary in 1988, in the process becoming the first DO to complete a residency program in Canada, and achieve certification then later fellowship with the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Between 1996 and 2012 Dr. Findlay served as President of the Canadian Osteopathic Association. At the start of those years the COA membership consisted mainly of the remnants of those who came to the country in the 1950's, with a small nucleus of 4 fully licensed DO's in practice in Alberta, British Columbia and then Ontario. The association during those years was successful in seeing recognition of the DO degree across Canada, by the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Medical Council of Canada, and the beginning of opportunities with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for specialist DO's. The bursary program for Canadian students at Michigan State University was also a project from those years.

As a believer in the idea that change is best driven from within Dr. Findlay has taken additional leadership commitments with the Alberta Medical Association where he is currently a member of the Representative Forum, with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta where he is currently a peer practice reviewer and past-chair of the Physicians Prescribing Practice Program, and the American Osteopathic Association where he is a long standing member of the Bureau on International Osteopathic Medicine. He is also the chair of the Medical Advisors Committee for the Canadian Ski Patrol, an organization which was in turn founded in 1941 by a Canadian DO.

Dr. Findlay enjoyed an office based private family medicine practice for over 25 years but at present his clinical commitments are with the Calgary Chronic Pain Center, where he was one of the founding physicians in 2000. He is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Calgary, and received the 2017 CME teacher of the year award. Outside of practice he is supported by his wife and two children who are still in their college years, and enjoys weekends in the Rocky Mountain town of Canmore as well as overseas travels as time and pandemics allow. His message to the next generation of DO leaders is to get involved, establish professional contacts and accept leadership positions in organized medicine. He takes satisfaction in knowing that tens of thousands of Canadians now have access to medical services by the world's best prepared clinicians, American trained osteopathic physicians.

# Important Figures in COA

## Dr. David Fiddler

EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN, ON

Dr. David Fiddler, interestingly, wanted to be a veterinarian when he was studying at University of Guelph. When he graduated in 1978, he had changed this path and decided he wanted to pursue osteopathic medicine. In his summer year of his Master's program, he drove around the United States applying to osteopathic medical schools. He was accepted to Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and graduated in 1983.

After completing osteopathic medical school, he was accepted an internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic. After completing his residency in 1986, he wanted to return to Canada and moved to Edmonton where he completed an internship at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. When the one-year internship was completed, he moved to Drumheller, Alberta where he practiced as their acting internist and also started working in their emergency department.

In 1992, five years into working in Drumheller, he wanted to return to his family in Ontario. He moved to Lindsay, Ontario and became the emergency department's first full time emergency physician. He practiced in the emergency department until late 2013. During his time in Lindsay, he also became fond of small-town medicine and worked to maintain a small cottage hospital in Minden. In addition, he was driving force towards a 24 hour emergency department in Minden so that the community could have access to proper emergency services. He spent over 20 years working in Minden.

When he wasn't working, he was enjoying time on his hobby farm with his wife, his five children, and of course his cows the "girls". In addition to coaching hockey with his boys and spending time at his cottage in the summer he would be working to promote osteopathic medicine in Canada.

He, along with Dr. James Church and Dr. Ted Findlay, maintained the Canadian Osteopathic Association by writing letters to federal and provincial regulators to get nationwide full unrestricted licensure for osteopathic physicians. They, together, forged the rights of practice for osteopathic physicians in Canada. In addition to his petitioning, he worked with Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine to establish the Canadian initiative program where osteopathic medical student spots at MSUCOM were set aside for Canadian students to apply.

Dr. David Fiddler was a strong advocate for osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medicine. In 2014, he passed away at the age of 58 due to cancer. His legacy lives on in his children, three of whom have pursued medicine and they continue his drive of maintaining osteopathic medicine in Canada.

# Upcoming Report on Osteopathic Education

## **Bureau on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs**

Dr. Ted Findlay continues to advocate for osteopathic education. He will be submitting the following report later this month to the Bureau on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs:

1. With the support of the AOA Board as well as BIOM assistance, a discussion has been initiated with Canadian medical regulatory and other organizations to address ongoing disparities in recognition and reciprocity that act as a barrier to DO's with an interest in practice in Canada.
  - a. In common with many other countries, Canada now has a widespread shortage of physicians and other health care practitioners following the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on health care systems and providers.
  - b. There is an ongoing conversation about the potential to establish a pan-Canadian medical license that would ensure interprovincial reciprocity, instead of the current system of provincially determined standards.
2. The COA has modified its membership criteria in order to extend membership to undergraduate DO students who have an interest in eventual practice in Canada. The Canadian Osteopathic Medical Students Association (COMSA) has partnered with SOMA to identify and reach out to potentially interested candidates.
3. Ongoing efforts to advance and maintain DO title protection continue across Canada.

## **HELPFUL LINKS**

**Canadian Osteopathic Association (COA)**  
[www.osteopathic.ca](http://www.osteopathic.ca)

**Canadian Osteopathic Medical Students Association (COMSA)**  
<https://www.studentdo.ca>

**American Osteopathic Association (AOA)**  
<https://www.osteopathic.org>

**Newsletter for AOA**  
<https://thedo.osteopathic.org>

# Updates on Osteopathic Opportunities

## Initiative from Ministry of Health

On August 18, 2022, Ministry of Health announced its' Five Points Recovery Plan for the Healthcare WorkForce. The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) has announced its joint effort with MOH to expedite registration of physicians from out of province and those interested in working in rural emergency departments. This would also be an opportunity for DO as with the MD graduates from the States to apply for licensure in Ontario. Currently, there is the pathway 4 route with CPSO. This entails working with supervision by an active licensed physician. At the conclusion of the Pathway 4, the physician candidate will be assessed by CPSO for independent practice. For more information, please contact a board member who can provide guidance through the registration pathway.

## Pertinent Links:

### MOH's Statement on Healthcare WorkForce Stability and Recovery

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002246/ontario-introduces-a-plan-to-stay-open-health-system-stability-and-recovery>

### CPSO's Requirements for Ontario Licensure

<https://www.cpso.on.ca/Physicians/Registration/Requirements>

### CPSO's Alternative Pathways to Independent Practice

<https://www.cpso.on.ca/Physicians/Registration/Registration-Policies/Alternative-Pathways-to-Registration>

This newsletter is made possible through a collective effort of the COA Board members. With the COA newsletter, the COA Board members hope to help connect the osteopathic physicians and strengthen the DO community in Canada. Please continue to support COA and your local provincial chapters. Visit our website at [www.osteopathic.ca](http://www.osteopathic.ca) for details on renewing your membership.

A Message from the  
Board of Directors



**CANADIAN  
OSTEOPATHIC  
ASSOCIATION**