

## **Executive Summary – Lawrence Hu, RMT July 31, 2013**

Summary of the Discipline hearing before a Panel of the Discipline Committee of the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario held on July 31, 2013

### **Allegations of Professional Misconduct and Plea**

Mr. Hu entered a guilty plea in relation to the following allegations:

- signed or issued, in his professional capacity, a document that contained a false or misleading statement;
- submitted an account or charge for services that were false or misleading; and
- engaged in disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional conduct

### **The Facts**

The College and Mr. Hu entered an Agreed Statement of Facts which set out the following facts.

The College received a complaint from Green Shield Canada setting out concerns with invoices submitted by their insured for chiropractic treatments performed at a clinic in which Mr. Lawrence Hu practised and his brother, Mr. Lo Chi Hu was the corporation's sole director. The invoices included the registration number of a chiropractor that denied providing the treatments in question. Additionally, through Green Shield's claims verification process treatment notes were provided for the treatments in question and the chiropractor also denied preparing those treatment notes.

Mr. Lawrence Hu and Mr. Lo Chi Hu admitted that the chiropractor did not authorize the provision of chiropractic treatment under their name nor did the chiropractor authorize the completion of chiropractic treatment notes. Mr. Lawrence Hu's and Lo Chi Hu's evidence would have been that he had no involvement in the falsification of invoices.

### **Decision of the Panel and Penalty Imposed**

The Panel accepted Mr. Hu's plea and found him guilty of professional misconduct.

The Panel accepted a Joint Penalty Submission from the College and Mr. Hu and imposed the following penalty:

1. The Member's Certificate of Registration be suspended for a period of 5 months, 2 months of which to be remitted if the Member complies with the terms, conditions and limitations imposed on his Certificate of Registration;
2. The following terms, conditions and limitations be imposed on the Member's Certificate of Registration:
  - a. The Member shall, within 3 months of the Discipline Committee's Decision, enroll in, at his own expense, the College's Professionalism Workshop and shall provide satisfactory evidence within 30 days of completing the same;

- b. The Member shall complete the courses referred to above within one year of the date of the Discipline Committee's Decision;
3. The Member receive a public and recorded reprimand;
4. The Member pay costs in the amount of \$2,000; and
5. The publication of the decision in the usual course.

**Panel's Reasons for Decision**

In the Panel's reasons it was stated that signing or issuing receipts for treatments which the Member had not performed is a very serious offence and for these reasons, it was appropriate to impose a lengthy suspension as the conduct of concern lessens public trust in the profession.