



Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

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Membership Advisory

Canadian Psychological Association Practice Directorate Query Regarding Entry to Practice Standard

As you may be aware the Practice Directorate for the national advocacy body for the profession, the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), in conjunction with the provincial advocacy bodies across Canada are polling their memberships for their opinion regarding establishing the Doctoral degree as the national standard for entry into the profession as a Psychologist. The Psychological Association of Saskatchewan (PAS – advocacy body) indicated at its briefing on the issue (May 3, 2012 in Regina) that it is not advocating for licensure for only Doctoral individuals. It is important to note that some Canadian jurisdictions have or are looking to discontinue licensure at the Master's level all together. The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (College) feels that it is important to provide members with additional information regarding the issue under consideration and which may be of assistance in making a decision.

The authority to make changes to licensure standards is vested with the regulatory bodies across Canada, “at the pleasure” of the various provincial and territorial legislatures. The mandate of the regulatory body is to protect the public through the regulation of the profession. The mandate of advocacy bodies is to promote the interests of the profession. At times the two mandates converge and at other times the two diverge and this is important to remember.

The College does not currently have any plans to change the practice of licensing both at the Masters and Doctoral levels. Any changes to the current practice would have to be agreed to by Government as being in the best interests of the public. It is in the best interests of the public to have competent and ethical practitioners of Psychology under the umbrella of regulation.