



Notes from the College May 2016

In this last College Note from my year as president, I quote Merrilee Rasmussen's presentation on self-regulating professions (Merrilee Rasmussen, QC, is one of two consultant lawyers retained by the College):

“Self-regulating professional associations have never been ‘about’ their members, except in the altruistic sense that is at the core of the notion of what it is to be a professional as that concept has been developed historically. That is, because the true professional is supposed to find fulfillment in the satisfaction derived from doing good work in the service of society, the self-regulating profession serves its members by serving the public.

The function of the profession is to ensure that the persons who are admitted to membership in it attain acceptable levels of knowledge and skill and that they maintain them at acceptable levels throughout their professional careers. The profession does not lobby employers for better working conditions and benefits or more pay. This is not its function. Its function is to set standards for practice and conduct and ensure that its members adhere to them. While doing so provides protection of the public, it also provides status and respect for the members of the profession.

The role of individual members is to support their profession in this primary function, not just by meeting the standards that are set, but also by contributing to the work that must be done to develop those standards and to enforce them and in the governance of the professional association that exists for that purpose. These are all the functions set out in the SCP legislation:

- . ensuring persons admitted to membership are qualified through education and good character
- . establishing codes of ethics and practice standards that members must meet
- . investigating complaints or concerns of misconduct or incompetence to determine if members meet the standards set
- . imposing, if necessary, the means by which a member can meet the required standard through further education, training or other consequences that will achieve that goal, and suspending or expelling the member when that is not possible

When these functions are appropriately fulfilled, the profession is truly self-regulating and public protection is achieved.”

Cheers,
Glenn Pancyr
President SCP