



# *Saskatchewan College of Psychologists*

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October 8, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that we will soon experience a beautiful fall day! I am writing to update you on the activities of College since the annual meeting in March. The College has been busy and has accomplished much over the last few months. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the volunteerism of the membership whose contribution of time and talent the College could not have done without. Thank you to those of you who have generously volunteered to assist.

We are quickly approaching the license renewal period. You will find enclosed with this letter your renewal invoice, a "Register Renewal Information – 2010" form, the "2010 Regional Directory – Voluntary Disclosure of Information" form, and a request for volunteers for the various committees of the College.

**Please remember that your licensure renewal fee is due on December 1, 2009 and that late fees will be assessed after that date. Please also remember that you must return with your renewal fee the "Register Renewal Information – 2010" form with the attestations completed in full and signed.**

With regard to the request for volunteers for the committees of the College, I recognize that we have in the past missed taking advantage of some of the offers of help. I sincerely apologize if you had volunteered to help and were missed. We are working on establishing a better system to track committee need and volunteer offers.

I would like to highlight briefly a few of the many important issues which have occupied the attention of the College over the last few months:

- **The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)** – the federal and provincial governments agreed to amend Chapter 7 of the AIT to further reduce what they perceive to be barriers to mobility across Canada for licensed professionals. Under the new amendments regulators will be required to license fully qualified registrants from other jurisdictions without question, without the ability to impose additional requirements, and without the ability to require additional examination. This is worrisome as there are still significant differences between jurisdictions in terms of the registration of Psychologists in spite of the existence of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA).

The AIT will in effect cancel out the MRA although there is a commitment among the national regulators to continue to maintain the core competencies and the Foundational Knowledge requirements and to work towards increased standardization in the licensure of Psychologists. Under the MRA the receiving jurisdiction maintained the right to impose additional requirements in the case of applications which were of concern.

The College applied to the provincial government to have "legitimate objectives" relating to diagnostic privilege, and the EPPP approved. Legitimate objectives would allow the College to impose additional examination/requirements upon those individuals coming from other jurisdictions when there is concern with regard to competence. Initially the government approved a legitimate objective for diagnostic privilege and rejected the legitimate objective for the EPPP. However, the legitimate objective for diagnostic privilege was subsequently revoked as it was determined that if one is allowed to diagnose in their home jurisdiction they should be allowed to diagnose here whether or not they could meet the standard established within this jurisdiction for licensure or diagnostic privilege.

- **Council Policies** – significant work has occurred, and continues to occur, with regard to establishing clear governance policy for Executive Council and the College. The establishment of the Executive Director role is a product of the governance work and the strategic planning process that the College has been engaged in over the last few years. The addition of the Executive Director role will improve the efficiency and day to day functioning of the College operations.
- **Standards of Conduct Document** - this document was developed by the Third Party Payer Committee. The intent of the document is to provide direction to the membership regarding the expectations for practice. Executive Council reviewed and accepted the document in principle. Consultation is currently occurring with key stakeholders.
- **Authorized Practice Endorsement** - The expansion of the definition of “communication” of a diagnosis. The definition has been expanded to include all forms of communication.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Privacy Issues** – I am pleased to report that this committee is currently being established under the leadership of Dr. Glenn Pancyr. The committee has a large mandate which is essentially to consider the interface between our legislation / the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists and the privacy legislation, to prepare advisories and support materials for the use of members, to make recommendations to the Executive Council with regard to privacy issues, and to recommend how to establish within the College structure expertise in the area of privacy legislation which could be a resource to the membership.
- **The Oral Examination Process** – a proposal to refine the examination process has been approved. It is hoped that the establishment of set examination panels will increase the number of exams which are provided each year, as well as the frequency with which they are provided. More information regarding this will be forthcoming in the near future.
- **Health Recruitment and Retention Grant** – Dr. Carol Falendar a Registered Doctoral Psychologist from California and an internationally renowned expert on supervision in clinical practice provided two-one day workshops (Regina / Saskatoon) on supervision. I am pleased to report that Dr. Theresa Zolner, R.D. Psych. has been contracted to develop a supervision manual for the College which among more general supervision issues, will address supervision for the purpose of licensure.
- **Registration and Academic Credentialing Policies** – consideration of legislative and bylaw amendments is occurring to address issues such as residency, acceptable programs, timelines for licensure etc.
- **Immigration and Mobility** – both the federal and provincial governments are targeting as a priority increasing immigration especially of those in the licensed professions – there has been significant discussion with regard to mobility and the facilitation of licensure. The College has been involved in consultations with the Ministries of Health and Advanced Education Employment and Labor as to how this will work in a practical sense.
- **Continuing Education Credit Random Audit** – policy and procedure have been established, and beginning in January 2010 a percentage of the membership will receive a request to submit documentation / evidence of their 2009 continuing education activities.

The College continues to grow in its numbers and responsibilities. Our current membership numbers are as follows: Full Practice 409, Provisional Practice 55 and Non-Practice 36. Approximately 51% of our membership is 50 years or older and thus “growing” the profession will be a necessity over the next few years. The College requires your input and assistance in meeting its responsibilities and in ensuring that the profession continues to be one we can all feel proud to claim membership in. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or issues you wish to discuss. I thank you for your continued support and your continued participation in the work of the College.

Sincerely,

Karen Messer-Engel, M.A., R. Psych.  
Executive Director/Registrar