

**Tele-psychological Services by Out of Province Psychologists Working in University or College
Counselling Centers to Students of the Institution Temporarily Located in Saskatchewan**

The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (SCP) has received inquiries from Psychologists /Psychological Associates in other Canadian jurisdictions who work for university and college counselling centers, about providing telepsychology services to students registered with their institution who are temporarily located in the province due to the pandemic. The SCP recognizes that the pandemic has impacted many, and that students may be vulnerable to mental health concerns due to impacts of the pandemic, in addition to the typical stresses of life and in particular academic life. The SCP also appreciates that students may not be able to access qualified mental health services due to a lack of means or limited resource availability. The *Psychologists Act 1997* limits practice as a Psychologist in this province, to those licensed with SCP. **Regulatory Bylaw 12.1** allows the College to consider emergency registration and licensure during at times such as this.

Under normal circumstances, those practicing telepsychology into the province who are not licensed with SCP would be viewed as conducting "unauthorized practice" and consideration would be given to whether there is a need for action. The SCP has given significant and careful consideration to the impact that the COVID19 pandemic has had on the mental health of many and it recognizes that it is important that this is taken into account in the case of post-secondary students who may require mental health services. The Executive Council of the SCP passed a formal motion at their September 12, 2020 meeting that would allow for independently licensed Psychologists / Psychological Associates working in post-secondary institutions in other Canadian jurisdictions to provide telepsychology services to students of the institution who are located in the province due to the pandemic, and without requiring licensure with the SCP. The SCP will not initiate an "unauthorized practice" action against an out of province practitioner provided they:

- Are licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction at the time the services are provided;
 - Are licensed to practice independently;
 - Will be providing the service as an employee of a university or college counselling center and to a student registered with the institution;
 - Practice only within their areas of competence and in keeping with any terms, limits and conditions on their license/certificate of registration;
 - Confirm their understanding and acceptance of the requirements listed above by formally notifying the SCP of their intention to provide telepsychology service to post-secondary students of their institution who are located in Saskatchewan. In addition they must complete and submit the form "**Emergency Tele-psychology Practice Register**" to skcp@sasktel.net.
- While the College will endeavor to acknowledge receipt of this information, practitioners need not wait for confirmation before initiating service.

This provision is intended only to apply during the pandemic / state of emergency and will cease to apply once the emergency declaration is removed.

NOTE - The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists does not have the authority to authorize its members to practice in other jurisdictions. If members of the College have questions regarding the provision of telepsychology services into other jurisdictions based on their registration in Saskatchewan, they should contact the jurisdiction in question. It is our understanding that many other Canadian jurisdictions are taking steps to make this possible but the requirements (e.g., notifying the College; time limits on such services, etc.) may vary among jurisdiction