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HRPA PROFESSIONAL REGULATION SECTOR WATCH

Below is the March issue of the monthly *Professional Regulation Sector Watch*, capturing regulatory news hand-searched by the HRPA's Policy Development Team.

Ontario

Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers: Addressing increase in sexual misconduct-related complaints, draft revisions to standards of practice, + updates to required readings for 2023 continuing competence program

<https://www.ocswssw.org/category/college-updates/>

<https://www.ocswssw.org/2023/02/21/ocswssw-takes-steps-to-address-increase-in-sexual-misconduct-related-complaints/>

- Over the past two years, the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers has witnessed a 107% increase in the number of complaints received related to sexual misconduct. This increase is deeply disturbing.

As part of our efforts to reduce the incidence of sexual misconduct, the College is embarking on a multi-faceted campaign to shed light on this issue, educate stakeholders about the importance of maintaining professional boundaries and ensure that registrants, employers and others understand the serious harm that boundary violations and sexual misconduct cause to clients. This campaign will engage with College registrants, service users and employers to ensure that they are aware of the many public protection tools available to them. More will be shared about this campaign in the weeks ahead.

- The 2023 Continuing Competence Program (CCP), which is mandatory for all College registrants, now also includes the following required readings – in addition to reviewing the

Standards of Practice, completing a self-assessment based on those principles, and setting goals and carrying out learning activities based on your self-assessment:

- [Practice Notes: Boundary Violations](#)
 - [Practice Notes: Dual Relationships: Ensuring Clients Best Interests Are Paramount](#)
 - [Perspective: College Sees Nearly 60% Increase in Sexual Abuse-Related Complaints in the Past Two Years](#)
 - [Practice Notes: The Slippery Slope to Sexual Misconduct: Be Informed, Be Aware](#)
 - [Practice Notes: Navigating Conflicts of Interest](#)
- Over the past year, the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (the College) has been conducting a comprehensive review of its Standards of Practice. The draft revisions to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice are now ready and we invite you to share your input!

The proposed updates reflect societal changes and current practices in the professions of social work and social service work. The revisions include: gender-neutral pronouns; a greater focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging; more simplified language; and further clarification on some topics, in response to feedback from the first phase of registrant and stakeholder consultations.

College of Veterinarians of Ontario: New innovation panel exploring all possibilities in veterinary medicine

<https://cvo.org/About-CVO/News/CVO%E2%80%99s-new-innovation-panel-exploring-all-possibili.aspx>

Innovative solutions are a daily occurrence in the clinical practice of veterinary medicine. The College of Veterinarians of Ontario is launching a new panel to ensure rules don't hinder those solutions.

"Our Council is excited to collaborate with our partners and engage Ontario veterinarians on the new Ontario Veterinary Regulatory Innovation Panel. We look forward to exploring ideas with the panel members as we think outside of the box to support the public's access to safe, quality veterinary care in Ontario," said Dr. Alana Parisi, President of the College.

The new innovation panel evolved from an international advisory group that was established by the College in 2017 with a focus on the emerging use of digital technology in veterinary medicine. The College Council has been a leader internationally with its practice standard on telemedicine, which was instrumental in enabling Ontarians to access veterinary medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our Council is concerned with the current challenges facing veterinarians in clinical practice. Our Council has a framework for a regulatory sandbox which enables us to consider testing projects that may require flexibility from our current rules. This panel provides an opportunity to engage that tool in exploring a broad range of innovative solutions. We are excited about the possibilities,” said Dr. Parisi.

College of Midwives of Ontario: Recommendations for broad prescribing and lab testing for midwives

<https://www.cmo.on.ca/college-of-midwives-of-ontario-recommends-broad-prescribing-and-lab-testing-for-midwives/>

The College of Midwives of Ontario takes our public-interest mandate seriously. While we have been committing to serving midwifery clients and their families since our inception, our 2018 Scope of Practice Changes submission is in the interest of all Ontarians accessing health care. Our proposal is safe, provides cost-savings, will benefit midwifery clients and their families, and reduces the burden on Ontario’s health care system as a whole.

The government’s new health plan, [**Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care**](#), includes welcome and needed initiatives to address the tremendous pressure on Ontario’s health care system.

In this context, we believe it is essential that midwives are able to practise to their full scope. Not only would this provide optimal care for midwifery clients, but it would lessen the burden on the health care system overall, allowing more Ontarians to access the care they need when they need it. We were pleased to see the **Your Health** document include mention of possible changes to midwives’ scope of practice.

National:

British Columbia

Architectural Institute of BC: AIBC officially under authority of professional governance act

<https://aibc.ca/2023/02/aibc-officially-under-authority-of-professional-governance-act/>

As of February 10, 2023, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia is officially under the authority of the *Professional Governance Act (PGA). The Architects Act has been repealed, and the architectural profession is governed by the PGA and its regulations.

What Does the Transition mean for the Profession?

While the new legislation adds 12 ethical principles to the Code of Ethics, the law doesn't result in any substantive changes to professional standards. However, the PGA does change several aspects of AIBC governance, programs, and current processes, such as: the Continuing Education System (non-compliance); the disciplinary processes; the AIBC Volunteer Program; Committee structures; AIBC Council composition and the Council election; as well as general terminology and references.

While the legal transition has occurred and the profession is now under new legislation, and key regulatory documents such as AIBC Bylaws have been updated and published, further refinement will be taking place over the coming weeks and months. The AIBC is taking a phased approach to updating content, and registrants will notice that not all material on the website is reflective of the new legislation. The AIBC will continue to update the suite of documents, processes, and webpages. Registrants will be notified of new versions of AIBC documents via the website.

*The Professional Governance Act (PGA) provides a consistent governance framework for self-regulating professions that incorporates best practices of professional governance. The PGA currently governs the five regulatory bodies overseeing agrologists, applied biologists, applied science technologists and technicians, engineers and geoscientists, and forest professionals.

<https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/about/professional-governance-act/>

BCCNM Board approves bylaw revisions to allow multijurisdictional registration for nurses

<https://www.bccnm.ca/bccnm/Announcements/Pages/Announcement.aspx?AnnouncementID=422>

The BCCNM board on Jan. 26, 2023, approved revisions to the college's bylaws that will enable a multijurisdictional form of nursing registration, laying the foundation for a pan-Canadian agreement allowing nurses to go where they are most needed with fewer barriers, ensuring continuity of care and accessibility of nursing care providers.

While the Canadian Free Trade Agreement establishes certain labour mobility rights for workers, it is still the case that a nurse registered in one Canadian jurisdiction and wishing to practice in another Canadian jurisdiction must obtain registration in that other jurisdiction. To gain registration as a "mobility applicant," they must complete an application, submit required information in accordance with relevant bylaws, await an assessment of eligibility, and pay both an application and registration fee.

The key elements of these draft amendments are:

- Establishing three new MJR registrant classes—one each for LPN, RPN, and RN.

- Requiring MJR applicants to identify a "home jurisdiction" if they are already registered in more than one other province.
- Eliminating the requirement for applicants to prove they meet their current jurisdiction's continuing competency/QA requirements (at time of application).
- Eliminating the requirement that MJR registrants meet BCCNM's QA requirements at registration renewal, provided they can prove they are meeting the QA/continuing competence requirements of their "home jurisdiction."
- Validity and renewal of MJR registration in B.C. would be set by the Registration Committee and tied to the validity and renewal of their "home jurisdiction" registration, not BCCNM's annual registration cycle.
- MJR registrants would have the same scope of practice and titles as other practising registrants in their respective classes.
- MJR registrants would be eligible for certified practice (CP) designations in B.C. but would then be required to meet BCCNM's QA requirement for CP at renewal.
- The BCCNM Board will retain overarching authority to manage gradual introduction of MJR on a province-by-province or profession-by-profession basis without further bylaw amendments.

Next steps

The proposed bylaw amendments have been posted on the BCCNM website and filed with the Ministry of Health's Professional Regulation division, as well as other required venues for consultation. BCCNM requests that any comments on these proposed amendments be submitted to BCCNM no later than May 4, 2023. Once the prescribed posting period ends and provided there are no further amendments consequent to the consultation, the amended bylaws will be filed and then take effect.

Alberta

College of Physiotherapists of Alberta: Proactively enforcing advertising requirements in physiotherapy practice

<https://www.cpta.ab.ca/news-and-updates/news/proactively-enforcing-advertising-requirements-in-physiotherapy-practice/>

In 2023, the College is introducing an initiative to proactively monitor physiotherapy advertising, rather than waiting to be contacted by individuals expressing concerns. The goal of this initiative is to make sure that physiotherapists know and adhere to the expectations found in the Standards of Practice.

Advertising Compliance Verification Tool

At their September meeting, Council voted to implement an advertising compliance verification tool that will screen websites and social media accounts where physiotherapy services are

promoted to verify that advertisements and promotional activities are in alignment with leSome of the most frequent advertising concerns brought to the College relate to the marketing activities that physiotherapists are expected to abstain from, including advertisements that:

- Offer free services
- Use comparative or superlative statements such as “best” or “number 1” to refer to the services offered or the physiotherapists working at a practice site
- Offer other types of incentives or other inducements

Manitoba

Internationally trained nurses who came to Canada feel forgotten as provinces recruit abroad

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/internationally-educated-nurses-accreditation-recruitment-abroad-1.6751385>

A delegation from Manitoba is in the Philippines right now.

In an interview before leaving with the delegation, Jon Reyes, Manitoba’s minister of labour and immigration, said he hopes a renewed memorandum of understanding with the Philippines government will “ensure the well-being of Manitobans being serviced by these services, but also the well-being of those Filipinos when they’re coming here.”

An official in the Philippines Department of Health has expressed concern about the exodus of health-care staff. In a media briefing last fall, officer-in-charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said the country has a shortage of 106,000 nurses in public and private facilities and hospitals.

As for internationally educated nurses attempting to get provincial accreditation, Warren said she’s working with the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba to “make sure that path is as quick as possible and the door is as wide open for them as possible.”

“I need them as well and I want them in the workplace as much as I do the nurses we’re recruiting from the Philippines,” she said, adding the longer someone is not working, the more upgrading they will need.

PEI

Doctors in Atlantic Canada will soon be able to work in any of the 4 provinces

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/atlantic-physician-registry-pei-premiers-meeting-1.6754317>

Doctors living and working within the four Atlantic provinces will soon be able to work within the region without additional licensing — thanks to a new Atlantic Physicians Register.

The registry was announced Monday following a meeting of the four Atlantic premiers. The registry is expected to be in place by May 1.

The premiers said the registry wouldn't fix the physician shortage currently facing the health-care system.

"It gives us more Band-Aids, if you will, to help plug some immediate issues along the way, while we are developing a moderate and modern system for the future," said Furey.