

January 21, 2011

To members of the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA):

The College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO) has approved proposed regulation amendments regarding the licensing of Psychologists and Psychological Associates, and now seeks consultation with stakeholders. These proposed amendments were made public on the CPO website today, on Friday, January 21st, 2011.

If approved, the amendments would result in the following :

1. Maintain the doctoral degree in psychology as the standard for entry to practice as a Psychologist.
2. Implement the mobility requirements of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA) (as legislated by the Ontario Government).
3. Close the Psychological Associate registration class.
4. Clarify that the doctoral degree, on which registration as a Psychologist is based, must be a degree from a psychology program.

The College (CPO) states that “This has been the standard for registration as a psychologist since 1960, when psychology became a regulated profession in Ontario.” This is in line with the policy of the OPA. In addition, OPA clearly supports bullets 3 and 4.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments have decided that all professions must change licensing in line with bullet number 2. This flows directly from the Agreement on Internal Trade (1998) and amendments to the AIT Labour Mobility Chapter (7) (2010) www.ait-aci.ca. In compliance the College states “ An applicant registered as a psychologist elsewhere in Canada must be registered as a psychologist in Ontario. The mobility provisions require the College to register an individual already registered with the same title elsewhere in Canada, so long as the scope of practice is the same, regardless of the degree held.” There is no choice.

The OPA Board welcomes your opinions on this matter to assist the Board in formulating a response to the six consultation questions posted on the CPO web site at www.cpo.on.ca.

Please direct your comments to our OPA Executive Director Dr. John Service at john_service@psych.on.ca