



A MESSAGE TO OPA MEMBERSHIP

Update on the CPBAO Proposed Changes to Training and Accreditation Standards

09-24-2025

In our last communication at the end of August, we shared updates from our meeting with the Ontario Fairness Commissioner (OFC) and committed to keeping you informed about developments affecting our professional standards and the College's proposed changes to training and accreditation standards (also referred to as registration modernization). We are writing today with new concerning information and to share our understanding of CPBAO's proposal.

As you are aware, recent **College-approved** changes to the registration requirements for Psychologists and Psychological Associates included:

- Ongoing plans for the JEE to shift “from a high-stakes exam to a low-stakes e-learning no-fail examination module^[1]”
- Removal of the limit on the number of attempts to pass the EPPPs^[2]
- “The restructuring of “client groups” and “authorized practice areas” into: Health Service & I/O”, removing other areas of competency such as neuropsychology, school psychology, etc.^[3]
- “Approval of the American Psychological Association and Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (in addition to the Canadian Psychological Association, CPA) as accrediting bodies to approve doctoral degrees”^[4]

Most recently, we met with representatives from the Ministry of Health (MoH), and several important updates emerged from that discussion:

- Psychology will be included in the “as of right” legislation. This confirms that our profession will be directly impacted and must prepare for the changes ahead.
- There will be no pause or slowing down of the legislation’s rollout. The Ministry made it clear that implementation is moving forward, reinforcing the urgency for the profession to mobilize. This is complicated by the varied registration requirements nationally.
- We have been told that the CPBAO has not responded robustly to past reviews from the Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC) and this has paved the way for the MoH to be particularly concerned with our profession.

This **Friday, September 26th, 2025**, the College Council will meet again to vote on additional changes to our registration standards. The purpose of these changes is to bring Ontario closer in line with registration standards practiced in Alberta and Yukon, in order to facilitate the inclusion of Psychology in *As of Right* legislation and in response to increased interprovincial registration under Canada’s Free Trade Agreement. Practically, the proposal would also bring our pathway more in line with psychotherapists, who complete two years of learning to practice psychotherapy but are not authorized to diagnose within that period.

In brief the changes that are being proposed and are scheduled to be voted on this Friday include;

- Registration as a psychologist based on a graduate degree from Council-approved programs (including programs with accreditation by College-approved accrediting bodies (i.e., No longer relying on CPA to accredit).
- We can also confirm that the required courses by the college would include only one practicum placement with emphasis on assessment and intervention
- Council approval of accrediting bodies internationally beyond USA (e.g., UK, Australia)

- Removal of the minimum 4-year work experience requirement for candidates with a Master's degree
- Elimination of the Oral Examination

Of note, the College has drafted educational standards under consideration for approval to register as a psychologist. You can find them beginning on page 81 of the College meeting materials attached herein, and we have also included a summary of the core criteria below. This is a significant shift from the extensive training Ontario psychologists and psychological associates currently complete in order to prepare for registration, and offers less varied exposure than is received among some non-diagnosing colleagues such as OTs or physiotherapists. Coupled with the aforementioned changes, it represents a complete overhaul of the standards we are known for in Ontario.

While we recognize the importance of improving our profession and fostering labour mobility, the OPA remains deeply concerned about the proposed changes to our educational standards—particularly when advanced in an expedited manner alongside the removal of core safeguards such as thorough pass/fail examinations, declared competency domains, post-Master's work training, and an oral examination. Feedback suggests that many members are not aware of these sweeping changes, as they have been embedded within large documents posted on the College website.

We have several ideas for meeting ministry requirements and the issues flagged by the OFC swiftly without compromising the integrity of our profession or increasing risk to the public.

In light of these developments, it is critical that members stay engaged with any and all advocacy efforts. We strongly encourage members to attend the CPBAO council meeting this Friday to observe the proceedings and inform your advocacy efforts.

Following Friday's vote, we will continue meeting with key stakeholders in preparation for the 60-day consultation period. In the meantime, we encourage members to review the attached materials and consider attending the Council meeting on Friday.

This is a pivotal moment for our profession — let's show our collective strength, encourage modernization in a balanced manner and to ensure CPBAO continues to regulate our field with the expertise and integrity it demands.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement.

Sincerely,

The Ontario Psychological Association and the Board of Directors

^[1] <https://cpbao.ca/wp-content/uploads/Materials-Council-Meeting-2025.03-September-26-2025-V4-4.pdf> p.47

^[2] <https://cpbao.ca/wp-content/uploads/Materials-Council-Meeting-2025.01-March-21-2025-Updated-1.pdf> p.9

^[3] <https://cpbao.ca/wp-content/uploads/Materials-Council-Meeting-2025.03-September-26-2025-V4-4.pdf> p.11

^[4] <https://cpbao.ca/wp-content/uploads/Materials-Council-Meeting-2025.03-September-26-2025-V4-4.pdf> p.11