



Statement from OPA BOD

October 01, 2025

We would like to provide our membership with an update regarding the CPBAO proposed registration changes, as well as the OPA response.

As you may know, the College Council met on Friday September 26 and passed the Registration Modernization Motion. With this decision, the following motions were passed by the college, and will go to the Ministry of Health for review and possible public consultation.

Amendments to the Registration Regulation for Psychology aimed at reducing unnecessary barriers to enter the profession, supporting labour market mobility, and increasing consistency across Canadian provinces, specifically:

- Registration as a psychologist based on a graduate degree from Council-approved programs (including programs accredited by College-approved accrediting bodies).
- Council approval of accrediting bodies internationally beyond the U.S. (e.g., U.K. and Australia).
- Removal of the minimum four-year *supervised* work experience requirement for candidates with a Master's degree currently in the psychological associate path.
- Elimination of the Oral Examination.

During the meeting, the CPBAO Council confirmed that, if approved by the government, these measures would bring all registrants under the single title of *Psychologist*, on the assumption that all will have demonstrated the expectations of *minimal competency*.

Additionally, the CPBAO materials contains detailed information on the proposed coursework requirements, which include only *one practicum placement*. Members are strongly encouraged to review [these materials](#) if they have not already done so.

The OPA has been working tirelessly on this issue over the past six months. We have engaged directly with key stakeholders, including the OFC, the Ministry, CPAP, other provincial associations, graduate programs, DCTs, hospitals, legal counsel, and more. This process is ongoing. In our communications with key players, we have emphasized the remarkable growth and speed of international registrants over the last two years, as well as the important progress made in increasing registrant diversity in Ontario graduate programs.

We fully recognize that changes are coming and that the situation is complicated by the varied pathways of training for psychologists and psychological associates across the country. At the same time, Canada's *Free Trade Agreement* and Ontario's *As of Right* legislation require us to acknowledge that those with alternative training pathways will have a place in Psychology. This also means Ontario will likely need to align more closely with other provinces, although we believe there are alternative options for what this could look like.

The extent of the changes being implemented by the CPBAO is deeply concerning to us and to our members. Lowering educational and training standards while simultaneously removing safeguards such as the oral examination and the standard JEE does not ensure Ontarians receive the level of care they deserve. These changes effectively cut clinical training from over 3000 hours to approximately 300 hours before registration, while removing the checks and balances our standard exams provide. We believe there is a middle path, and our recent [joint letter with the Canadian Psychological Association](#) reinforced some of our initial ideas to increase access while considering quality of care.

We know members are wondering where this leaves us, and what our next steps may be? We have seen comments of concern that OPA is neutral on this issue or that we are not acting. We want our membership to understand that we are not neutral, and have not been since we first learned of these changes. We, a board made up of both psychological associates and psychologists, have generated multiple other solutions, which we have shared with the government, and we will continue to do so. We are not neutral, but we do

need to be strategic. We are working with government relations firms and counsel to ensure that our actions do not inadvertently hurt our cause and that our recommendations are legally sound. We kindly ask for your patience and trust, as from experience we have learned that we are stronger together than in silos. Along with the CEO, we are a group of 4 individuals who are busy professionals and are juggling work-life balance, similar to all our members. We have chosen to volunteer for the OPA BOD because we believe passionately in the work the OPA does for our profession.

We're inspired by the passion and engagement shown by Psychologists and Psychological Associates in recent days. As conversations continue on community boards and social media, we ask members to support one another and communicate with care. With 78 years of history, OPA has strong relationships with government and community institutions, and we are engaging with stakeholders daily. Please know we are not avoiding the media or stepping back, rather we are taking a deliberate, strategic approach, backed by a team of professionals and a wise-mind approach. While we cannot always share every detail along the way, we will continue to keep you informed, as we have since the beginning.

We welcome your ideas, and we encourage you to reach out as we move forward together with purpose and a united voice to protect high quality psychological services for Ontarians.

On behalf of The OPA Board of Directors,

- Dr. Laura Nichols
- Dr. Marlene Tabe-Schiff
- Dr. Michele Foster
- Dr. Katie Stewart
- Mr. Richard Morrison