



NSBEP Email Update August 2024

Welcome to the most recent update from NSBEP.

This is a regular update of subject matters relevant for registrants. Since registrants are expected to be knowledgeable of and up-to-date on policies, guidelines and matters relevant to practice and registration, please ensure that you review the following information.

In this update:

- Telepsychology update
- PHIA amendments & plain language information
- Professional wills and estates
- Tier 1&2 Learning Plans
- NSBEP AGM
- NSBEP Elections
- Regulated Health Professions Act
- Request from ASPPB Job Task Analysis Advisory Committee

TELEPSYCHOLOGY UPDATE

The Board has a section of its website devoted to telepsychology. You can obtain information here: <https://www.nsbep.org/information-for-registrants/telepsychology/>

A few highlights:

- NSBEP, along with the regulatory colleges in New Brunswick and Quebec continue to allow virtual practice with individuals in their respective jurisdictions provided a psychologist is registered in another Canadian jurisdiction.
- Psychology regulators in the other provinces have formed an MOU which essentially requires temporary registration in their respective jurisdictions whenever a psychologist wishes to work by telepsychology with clients in their jurisdiction. For more information, please see the following URL:

<https://acpro-aocrp.ca/acpro-mou-regarding-interjurisdictional-telepsychology/>

For specific information on providing telepsychology in other jurisdictions, psychologists will need to contact the other jurisdictions directly.

PHIA AMENDMENTS & PLAIN LANGUAGE INFORMATION

In 2024, the Nova Scotia Government made an amendment to Bill 419 Financial Measures Act which applies to government processes under the Personal Health Information Act. Regulators were not consulted on this amendment. However, the Regulated Health Professions Network did attend Law Amendments to express concerns

about this change.

In the media and in comments about Bill 419, the Minister of Health indicated that she was not interested in the individual health information of Nova Scotians, and this amendment was made to enable access to aggregate information in a timely manner for the purposes of the planning and management of the health system, resource allocation and creating or maintaining EHR programs and services, etc.

The NS Government has put together information intended to be in plain language relating to privacy of healthcare information. Please see the following URL for more information:
<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/phia/your-privacy.asp>

While psychologists are not required to explicitly name all legislation related to their professional practice in their consent form, the psychologist's informed consent process likely notes that the psychologist may be required to divulge personal information according to law and legislation. Some examples are the Children & Family Services Act, Personal Health Information Act, and Workers Compensation Act, etc.

The Board has a listing of legislation relevant for psychologists
https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Binder_Standards_Legislation_Guidelines.pdf

In future, NSBEP is consider issuing some further guidance on the consent form and process.

PROFESSIONAL WILLS & ESTATES

It is important to note that the NSBEP does not have a requirement for professional wills, per se, but rather the below policy on requirements for death, incapacity or retirement.
https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/NSBEP_guidelines_for_retirement_planning.pdf

The above NSBEP policy / guidance information has been in place since 2008. Over the last several years, the NSBEP database/annual renewal process was amended to ask for the name of the custodian psychologist in the event of death or incapacity. The feature was also amended to inform a registrant by email if another registrant has nominated them to be a custodian in the event of death or incapacity.

While a psychologist is not prevented from taking steps to have a professional will, it would be important that stipulations in the will do not conflict with the arrangements set up through NSBEP's requirements for death, incapacity or retirement.

While not documentation from NSBEP, registrants may find it helpful to review these additional resources. Please note that NSBEP has not endorsed the documents, that they are provided for information only, and that if they are conflict with NSBEP standards, NSBEP Standards prevail.

Guidelines for Closing a Psychology Practice – by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.asppb.net/resource/resmgr/guidelines/asppb_guidelines_for_closing.pdf

TIER 1&2 LEARNING PLANS

In 2023, the Board developed guidelines for fully registered psychologists who wish to add to their scope of practice. While essentially the broad requirements for Tier 1 & Tier 2 expansions are already required by professional standards, it is hoped that this process provides more specific information for registrants to make an expansion using an appropriately supportive process and documentation. Those on the Candidate Register should consult the Supervision Handbook.

<https://www.nsbep.org/information-for-registrants/for-all-registrants/faq/>

https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Scope_LearningPlans.pdf

NSBEP AGM

The Board's AGM will be held virtually on September 22 at 3 pm. Registrants are cordially invited. A formal invitation, the Zoom Invite, and the Annual Report will be sent in advance of the meeting.

NSBEP ELECTIONS

Information will be sent out later in August about the NSBEP elections. Please keep an eye on your inbox.

REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT

As noted in last year's Annual Report, the NS Government continued to consult with the regulated health professions on a proposed Foundation Act that would be used by all regulated health professions. The goal of the act is to reflect a common best-practice approach to regulation for all the involved professions. Differences between regulatory boards and professions will be dealt with in profession-specific regulations. The NSBEP Board believes that this could potentially benefit NSBEP as much of the legislation and regulations that NSBEP currently needs to follow is outdated and inefficient.

Unlike the consultation process with the Psychologists Act (2000), this new legislation was a government led initiative required of all provincial regulators of health professions. While government incursion into self-regulation is increasing across jurisdictions, in NS, the regulated bodies will continue to be self-regulating professions. In November 2023, the provincial government enacted the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). This act will eventually replace the individual acts (e.g., The Psychologist Act) of each of the 24 regulated health professions in Nova Scotia. It is expected that psychology will be "migrated" to the new RHPA during the fall of 2025. The impact on psychologists will be minimal but as a result, new regulations will likely result in changes that include: the composition of the Board; the length of terms; and the process of how psychologists and public members become part of the Board.

Currently, the NSBEP Board can be described as “a working board” in that in addition to developing policy and overseeing the functioning of NSBEP, Board members are also expected to have “hands on” involvement with the registration committees and perhaps investigation committees. Under the new RHPA, NSBEP will be required to establish a number of statutory committees to handle registration, complaints, peer review and other functions, and the RHPA limits the involvement that Board members can have on the statutory committees. As a result, once NSBEP has been migrated to the new act, the primary responsibilities of the Board will be on policy development and overseeing the functioning of NSBEP.

RHPA can be viewed online via the following URL:

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/regulated%20health%20professions.pdf>

REQUEST FROM ASPPB JOB TASK ANALYSIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A member of the ASPPB Job Task Analysis Advisory Committee has noted the following, and asked that Canadian Jurisdictions share the invitation for volunteers for the EPPP Job Task Analysis Task Force:

There is a uneven promotion of these call for volunteers in recent years for the ASPPB Working Groups/Task Forces/Committees such that there are often a couple hundred US applicants and sometimes only 1 or 2 Canadians applying. For the work of the ASPPB, particularly around the EPPP, the involvement of Canadian representatives ensures that the information is equally valid across both the US and Canada.

[Click here for the invitation](#)

Please note that as previously reported, NSBEP has not yet decided on adopting the "new" EPPP, but having Canadian representation on the task force would be important for NSBEP or other Canadian jurisdictions who do choose to continue to use the EPPP.

Kind regards,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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