



Email Update: November 2018

Welcome to the most recent update from NSBEP.

In this format of communication with registrants, the Board strives to provide updates on subjects of interest to registrants of the Board.

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NSBEP Elections

During our first election, held on October 26, 2018, Daniel Chorney and Mark Russell were elected to the NSBEP Board. The Board would like to note that while Mark was also a Board member prior to the election, he recused himself from discussions and he did not participate in any of the Board decisions about the regulations or election procedures, and he did not receive any information during the course of the election that was not provided to the other candidates or to the registrants.

These were our first elections, and of necessity, the regulations and procedures had to be developed quickly in order to meet the expectations put forth in the changes to the Psychologists Act that permitted the elections. At this point, we are seeking feedback about the elections process and regulations.

What went well and what did not go well from your perspective?

Were the procedures and timelines clear and appropriate?

Was there anything missing?

Did you encounter any difficulties voting?

Do you have any comments on any of the [regulations](#) including those that deal with filling positions outside of the normal elections?

Please send your feedback to my attention by email, fax or mail

Email: nsbep@nsbep.org

Fax: 902-423-0058

Mailing Address: Located at the bottom of this email.

Please note that NSBEP did not participate in the creation or dissemination of the questionnaire for candidates used by APNS. If you have specific comments about that questionnaire you should address them to APNS, but if you have general comments about such activities, please let us know.

Public Members

As noted in September of this year, the Provincial Government made appointments to fill the three Public Member positions on the Board.

A brief biographical statement provided by each of the Public Members is presented below.

Francesca Carone

Francesca Carone attended Humber College for Police foundations in which she graduated with honors. She is currently finishing up her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a major in Psychology. With this she desires to achieve a Masters in Psychological Counselling. She has a diverse background. In the past she worked in the cosmetology industry providing hair salon services and managerial work as a salon manager. She also has extensive customer service experience while working in a call center. She moved from Toronto, Ontario, to Nova Scotia five years ago, and is working hard to finish up her studies while educating her children.

David Merrigan

David Merrigan is an Industrial Relations professional and Arbitrator.

He holds the Qualified Arbitrator (Q.Arb) designation from Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Canada and the Member of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb) designation from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is also a Certified Professional in Human Resources (CPHR).

A graduate of Memorial University and Simon Fraser University with two Bachelor's degrees (majors in Philosophy, Psychology and Criminology), he has represented the Correctional Service of Canada at numerous Parole Board of Canada hearings. He has also represented both Unions and Employers at grievance arbitrations and before the Workers Compensation Board.

While a Naval Officer in the Canadian Forces, David was a "Workplace Relations Adviser" and tasked with investigating allegations of harassment.

Previously, he has volunteered as a Board Member for the Nova Scotia SPCA, Northwest Planning Advisory Committee for HRM, the Nova Scotia Criminal Justice Association, and was part of Team Nova Scotia's Mission Staff for the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

He currently sits as a member on Nova Scotia's Involuntary Psychiatric Review Board and The Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada.

He resides in Halifax, Nova Scotia with his wife Charlyn, and his dogs – Chase, Minion, and Piper.

Sean Ponnambalam

Sean Ponnambalam attended McGill University and Dalhousie University, completing a BSc in psychology. He is entering into his final year of the J.D. program at the Schulich School of Law and will be articling with Blois, Nickerson & Bryson LLP in 2019. Sean has been actively involved in the mental health community around HRM, most notably through his work with the Canadian Mental Health Association's Halifax-Dartmouth Branch. He currently sits as a board member for the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia, for the Khyber Centre for the Arts, and as Vice Chair for CMHA Halifax Dartmouth. His grassroots mental health background and experience as a Nova Scotian visible minority help to inform the board's perspective.

Administrative Support for NSBEP

Ms. Lee Outerbridge assumed the position of NSBEP Administration Assistant in April. Lee brings with her a sense of humour, caring and efficiency. At times, we also have administrative support who provide backup for Lee and administrative support to the Registrar and Assistant Registrar.

Annual Continuing Competence Update

The Continuing Competence Form that is completed by registrants has been revised to make the process clearer to registrants and consequently make the audit process of Board even more efficient. The new Form is effective January 1, 2019. Psychologists who have completed the previous form may transfer their information onto the new form, though use of the previous form is acceptable for the 2018 year.

Some additions were also made to the Credit Activities and Values. Revisions were made to credit values for activities such as serving on a board/association, supervision, self-directed learning and publications. For more information, the revised form and revised listing of credit activities and values can be found on the NSBEP website. They can be directly accessed by [clicking here](#).

NSBEP Website and Archive of Past Communications

Registrants are always encouraged to make use of the website to keep track of any developments and to perform various tasks. For instance, the website provides access to various legislation, standards and additional guidelines NSBEP has established to direct practice along with news releases. We have different versions of "Frequently Asked Questions" to serve the various requirements of visitors to our site. We regularly add new content to these and other sections, when common questions arise.

We would like to provide a reminder that the website includes an archive of past Email Updates from NSBEP to Registrants. To access such information, please see the [Information for Registrants Section](#) of the website.

The NSBEP Directory of Psychologists is available from the website. Such information can be helpful for the public and other professionals. Please ensure that your information is accurate.

The Board site offers a Registrant Portal, which allows registrants to perform a variety of self-serve functions. In addition to renewing your registration, you can update your contact information on file with NSBEP or update your Psychological Practice Profile as required.

You can also access a Confirmation of Registration document that you can save to your computer and/or print off if you wish to share it with others to verify your registration, e.g., an employer, insurance companies, agencies, etc. This document confirms that a psychologist's registration has been renewed and states the current year of registration.

You can return to this portal at any time in future, if you wish to obtain another Confirmation of Registration, update your contact information or psychological practice profile, or even pay a miscellaneous fee (e.g., paying an oral exam fee, reinstatement fee, etc.).

To get started with any of the self-serve functions, visit nsbep.org and click on "Registrant Login" in the upper right hand screen.

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve the website, or provide additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Assisting with Oral Exams, Interviews, and Supervision

The Board would like to invite all registered psychologists to consider volunteering to help the Board and the profession by working with the NSBEP. For instance, consider helping with any or all of the following activities: conducting oral exams / transfer interviews and providing supervision.

In keeping with Standard IV.4 of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists, and the NSBEP Continuing Competence Program, working in these capacities provides an excellent way to earn Continuing Competence credits while contributing to the continuing education and the professional and scientific growth of self and colleagues.

Oral Examinations & Transfer Interviews

Oral Examinations are conducted as candidates take the final steps towards Registration. The Oral Examination provides an opportunity for a face-to-face interaction between examiners and examinees to discuss areas of practice, professional behaviour and ethical dilemmas, and to assess the examinee's understanding of the core competencies required for psychological practice, as well as the meaning of registration and the position of psychology as a profession.

Transfer Interviews are held for psychologists who are registered in another jurisdiction and are eligible to transfer based on their full registration in another jurisdiction and their meeting certain criteria. These interviews do not result in a pass or fail but do focus on ethical practice and local jurisprudence issues. At times, the Transfer Interview Committee might recommend that a condition be added to a psychologist's registration. An example of a condition would be completing supervision for a period of time.

Supervision

The purposes of candidate register supervision are to:

To monitor the performance of candidates in the core competency areas to ensure standards are being met;

To provide opportunities for candidates to further develop their skills, knowledge, professional attitudes, and sound professional judgment.

Psychologists can act as a Supervisor for the entire duration of the candidacy period or they may choose to do so for a limited period of time.

As mentioned, there are times when supervision might be required for a registered psychologist. For instance, if a candidate has passed an oral exam with conditions, they may be registered with a condition requiring him/her to undergo an additional period of supervision to remediate concerns identified by the oral exam committee. In some instances, supervision may be required for a psychologist who has transferred from another jurisdiction.

Those who have been a Registered Psychologist for two years are eligible to volunteer to serve as a NSBEP Supervisor. The NSBEP provides Continuing Competence credits for registered psychologists acting as a NSBEP Supervisor.

The NSBEP encourages psychologists to consider becoming involved with the work of the Board. To obtain more information, or to volunteer for one of these roles, please contact Matthew Wagner, Assistant Registrar.

Sincerely,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology
