The Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

NSBEP Email Update for Registrants

Welcome to the most recent update from NSBEP.

This is a regular update of subject matters relevant for registrants. Since registrants are expected 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:

- NSBEP Team Update: Welcoming Our New Senior Psychologist Advisor
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NSBEP Team Update: Welcoming Our New Senior Psychologist Advisor

We are pleased to announce that Carmel Kleisinger, M.A., R.Psych., has joined the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology as a Senior Psychologist Advisor. With over two decades of dedicated service in the field, Ms. Kleisinger has been registered with the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists since November 2003. Her professional background brings extensive regulatory experience, including serving on the Registration Committee of the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists, followed by roles as Deputy Registrar and Registrar. Joining her in this role, Dr. Gordon Butler continues to support NSBEP by also serving as a Senior Psychologist Advisor. These staff positions provide expert regulatory guidance and support as we adapt our governance and procedures under the Regulated Health Professions Act. Matthew Wagner continues as Chief Administrative Officer and Acting Registrar.

We are also pleased to welcome Diana Reid-Byard as a new Public Board Member, appointed by the Governor in Council. Ms. Diana Reid-Byard replaces Ms. Francesca Carone, whose term with NSBEP has now been completed. We extend our sincere thanks to Ms. Carone for her years of dedicated service as a Public Member. For a complete list of all current Board members, please visit: https://www.nsbep.org/about-nsbep/current-board-members/.

Over the summer, we will be reaching out to registrants with more information on the RHPA, including opportunities to contribute to the regulation of the profession through participation in statutory committee work. Your involvement will be vital as we welcome new psychologists into the profession and uphold the integrity of psychological services in the province.

Update on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Psychological Practice

The Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology (NSBEP) recognizes the growing interest in artificial intelligence (AI) tools among psychologists and their potential applications in professional practice. At present, NSBEP does not have guidelines explicitly tailored to the use of AI. However, the integration of AI is not prohibited, and psychologists may consider incorporating it into their work, provided they adhere to our existing ethical and professional standards.

Our general guidance on the use of technology by psychologists remains fully applicable

in this context. This document, available at https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/use_of_technology_by_psychologists.pdf, outlines key principles that should guide any technological integration, including AI. Essential considerations include maintaining client confidentiality, obtaining informed consent, and assuming full responsibility for all aspects of your work—whether tasks are delegated to a person or a technological tool like AI. It is important to note that AI tools may not always provide accurate or complete information, especially if inputs are general and do not specifically reference relevant professional standards or ethical codes. Therefore, registrants must carefully review and verify any AI-generated material, as they bear ultimate responsibility for the content and its application in practice. Psychologists must ensure that AI use does not compromise the quality, accuracy, or ethical integrity of their services.

While NSBEP does not yet offer AI-specific recommendations, we are actively monitoring developments in this rapidly evolving field as AI becomes more prevalent in psychology. In the meantime, we encourage all registrants to exercise sound professional judgment when exploring AI tools. Select secure, reputable options that align with the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists, NSBEP's professional standards, and relevant best practices. If you have questions or need further clarification, please reach out to our office for support.

EPPP News: Anticipated Changes and NSBEP's Evaluation

NSBEP is providing an update on the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), used by all Canadian jurisdictions except Quebec and all U.S. jurisdictions as part of psychologist registration requirements. The current EPPP assesses foundational knowledge of psychology.

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has decided not to implement the previously proposed two-part EPPP (Part 1–Knowledge and Part 2–Skills). Instead, ASPPB is developing a revised single-session integrated EPPP that will assess both knowledge and skills, with implementation anticipated in fall 2027. This revised exam aims to evaluate baseline competency for psychology licensure across North America.

Candidates who have not passed the current EPPP by fall 2027 may need to take the revised, single-session integrated EPPP instead of the current knowledge-only version. The NSBEP continues to evaluate information related to the EPPP and to consider the directions taken by other jurisdictions, but has not reached a decision on adopting this revised exam for psychology licensure.

Reminder: Prohibition on Testimonials in Psychological Practice

The Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology (NSBEP) would like to remind all registrants that our Standards of Practice explicitly prohibit the use of testimonials by psychologists in their communications or marketing materials. This is outlined in Standard III.2 of the Standards for Providers of Psychological Services, which states that "Claims made by psychologists shall be based upon sound research findings, and may not employ testimonials, selective survey results, or misleading or false information." This provision emphasizes maintaining professional integrity and avoiding potentially misleading endorsements.

We recognize that many psychologists work in multi-disciplinary practices alongside other professionals who may not be bound by the same restrictions. However, it is essential that psychology practices adhere fully to NSBEP standards to ensure ethical compliance and protect the public interest. Psychologists remain responsible for ensuring that their own promotional activities, as well as those representing the psychological components of a shared practice (e.g., marketing materials that highlight or include psychological services), do not include testimonials.

For reference, the relevant standards and guidelines are available here:

- NSBEP Standards: https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Binder_Standards_Legislation_Guidelines.pdf
- NSBEP Publication: Communication by

Registrants: https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Communication.pdf

Reminder: Employer Contact Policy for Candidate Register Supervision:

Employer Contact has proven to be a valuable tool for reviewers in evaluating a candidate's progress during supervision and readiness for the oral exam. As a reminder, to enhance this process, the following changes were implemented in October 2024:

- **Minimum Contacts:** All candidates are required to have at least one Employer Contact per year.
- **Additional Specific Contacts:**
  - One Employer Contact must be completed within the first three months of candidacy.
  - Another Employer Contact is required within the three months prior to requesting an oral exam.

This policy change ensures that candidates receive more frequent and timely evaluations, potentially leading to more than the minimum one Employer Contact per year for some.

Keeping Your Contact Information Current

Timely communication with registrants is a priority for NSBEP. Under Board Policy and provincial legislation, registrants are required to keep their contact information up to date, including their primary mailing address, phone number, and email address. If any of this information changes, please notify NSBEP within 30 days so we can continue to reach you effectively. Should information sent to a registrant be returned due to outdated details, a $100 processing fee may apply. As a reminder, both a primary mailing address and an email address are required. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Best regards,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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