

College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba

UPDATE

May 2011

PROGRESS REPORT

The Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) continues to work closely with Manitoba Health on the development of all the administrative and regulatory requirements for the establishment of the College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM). We are now recognized as the “lead horse” in the regulatory reform process, and are farther advanced in the process than most other regulated health professions in Manitoba.

At the MSHA Annual General Meeting in January 2011, a presentation was made addressing some of the major points under discussion with MB Health. The presentation included matters such as the composition of the new Council and the committees that CASLPM will require. The requests for reserved acts were outlined and there was a brief outline of the Code of Ethics. MSHA members were advised that the next phase in the development of the various aspects of the college would be member consultation.

MEMBER CONSULTATION

In January 2011, MSHA members were consulted on the Reserved Acts Request and Justification submissions. All members were invited to respond to a survey and submit their comments on the reserved acts that MSHA has requested the Manitoba Government authorize audiologists and speech – language pathologists to perform. Over 10% of MSHA members responded to the survey. These comments were considered in preparation of the final submission to MB Health. The Reserved Acts Request and Justification submissions for both professions are available on the MSHA website (HPRRI section).

The Reserved Acts Request and Justification submissions have been sent to all other regulated health professions in Manitoba for comment. Once their comments are received, MSHA will send the package to MB Health and begin negotiations on the final draft of the regulation to authorize members of CASLPM to perform the reserved acts.

MSHA is in discussions with MB Health on the Standards of Practice and a Code of Ethics for both professions. Deliberations on the content and format of the Standards of Practice are still underway. However, the Code of Ethics is now at the stage for member consultation. It was circulated to MSHA members for comment in late April.

The establishment of the College also requires new by – laws. A draft by – law on Council composition, with an appropriate balance of audiologists, speech – language pathologists, and public members, as required by the RHPA, has been drafted. It also includes provisions setting out how professional members will be elected to ensure an appropriate number of professional members on Council from each profession and representation of the two professions on a regional basis. A number of items have been approved in principle by the MSHA Board and key aspects of the draft by – law are ready for member consultation. Once the consultation on the Code of Ethics is complete, member consultation on the content of the by – laws will be begin.

MSHA members will also be consulted on the draft Standards of Practice, anticipated in late June. These Standards of Practice for each profession will be used by the College to regulate the quality of practice of its members. The Standards of Practice will also be used by members in the continuing competence program to be developed for CASLPM.

As well, MSHA members will be consulted on the Registration Regulation and the Continuing Competence Program.

It is still MSHA's hope that the Manitoba Government will pass the necessary regulations to establish the College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba in late 2011. However, it is difficult to anticipate exact time lines, taking into consideration the provincial election in October 2011 and the public consultation process that Manitoba Health must carry out.

Although many challenges lie ahead, MSHA is excited by the progress being made towards establishing the College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba.

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