

Transitional Council

Information to Members

September 2011

Under the Regulated Health Professions Act of Manitoba (RHPA), the College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM) will regulate the professions of audiology and speech – language pathology in the province. MB Health has indicated that CASLPM will be one of the first colleges proclaimed under the RHPA. This is anticipated in early 2012.

In its Consultation Document (January, 2009), the MB government outlined key measures in the RHPA that would improve public protection and enhance accountability while ensuring that health professions continue to be self – regulating. These measures would eliminate the large number of inconsistencies which presently exist between single - profession statutes in the province, including variations in the regulatory body’s mandate and requirements for public representation on council. The RHPA:

- establishes a clear mandate for all health profession regulatory bodies to protect the public interest,
- establishes that regulatory bodies will be known as “colleges,”
- requires that regulatory functions will be separated from professional advocacy activities, and
- requires that one – third of the members of a college council (the governing body) be public representatives to advocate for the public interest.

Presently, MSHA is governed by a Board of Directors with a slate of 7 officers. No public members sit on the MSHA Board. When the college regulating audiologists and speech – language pathologists is established, MSHA will be continued as CASLPM, in accordance with the RHPA. The MSHA Board of Directors of the time will become the Transitional Council of CASLPM.

The Minister of Health will appoint public representatives to Council. The RHPA defines a public representative as follows:

“in respect of a particular regulated health profession, a person who has never practiced the particular regulated health profession and who has not practiced any other regulated health profession within the previous five years.”

Therefore, retired audiologists or speech – language pathologists are not eligible to be appointed as public representatives to CASLPM Council.

The number of councilors to be elected and appointed must be sufficient to carry out the work of the college without being too large and costly. The draft CASLPM by – law states that Council will consist of nine (9) members, six (6) elected and three (3) appointed. Electing four (4) speech – language pathologists and two (2) audiologists will ensure an appropriate number of councilors will be elected from each profession in keeping with the number of members registered in each profession.

Elections to fill vacancies on Council will be held soon after the Transitional Council takes office, in compliance with CASLPM by - law. Electoral districts have been established to provide for members to be elected in urban and rural areas:

- District 1: An Urban Area within the Winnipeg Perimeter
- District 2: A Rural Area outside the Winnipeg Perimeter

Three (3) speech – language pathologists and one (1) audiologist shall be elected from District 1; one (1)

audiologist and one (1) speech – language pathologist shall be elected from District 2. A member will be eligible for nomination in an electoral district if, on the deadline for receipt of nominations, the member resides or practices in the electoral district in which he or she has been nominated.

Elected members of council shall serve a three (3) year term with a maximum of four (4) consecutive terms. The term of office for appointed members of council shall be prescribed by the Minister, and shall not exceed four (4) years in any one term, or a total of twelve (12) consecutive years on Council, in accordance with the RHPA. Officers of the College will be elected by Council at the first council meeting each year for a one – year term.

In order to prepare for the transfer of operations of the MSHA Board to the Transitional Council of CASLPM, the MSHA Board of Directors will be participating in a series of workshops to enhance understanding of future governance policies and procedures. Specifically, the objectives of the workshops are to:

- create an understanding amongst MSHA Board members and staff of their respective roles, and
- create and adopt governance policies and operational rules that are necessary to ensure the effective and efficient management of the College.

The workshops, presented by David Hodgson, of Regulation Dynamics, will address essential governance policies, setting agendas for council meetings, rules of order, policy development process, and applying a strategic planning cycle of operations.

For further information on MSHA's regulatory reform, please contact Lori McKietiuik, Transition Coordinator: lmckietiuik-hpr@msha.ca or call 204 453 4539 ext: 321.