

UPDATE ON THE NEW COLLEGE: CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS TO BEGIN

November 2010

PROGRESS REPORT

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) and the Ad Hoc Committee for Regulatory Reform (AHCRR) continue to make good progress on the development of all regulatory requirements for the establishment of the College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM). In recent meetings with Manitoba Health, it is quite apparent that MSHA has done more work in preparation for the establishment of our new college than most other professions.

On November 15, MSHA received a letter from the Legislative Unit, Manitoba Health, in the Office of the Deputy Minister of Health, regarding the process for transition to regulation under *The Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA). Manitoba Health expects that the Board of Directors of MSHA, constituted under *The Manitoba Speech and Hearing Act*, will develop the regulations and by – laws necessary for the RHPA.

The regulation development process will include review and comment by Manitoba Health. Manitoba Justice will also provide comments, once the regulations are at the legal drafting stage. The Department expects that MSHA will consult with its members in the development of the initial regulations for the College of Audiologist and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba as required by the RHPA. When the regulations are finalized and legal drafts have been prepared, the Department will submit them, through the governmental regulatory review process, for Lieutenant Governor in Council review and approval. Regulations must be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in order for them to come into force.

It is anticipated that the Lieutenant Governor in Council “Practice of Audiology and Speech – Language Pathology Regulation” and the proposed council regulations would be submitted to Lieutenant Governor in Council for review and approval at the same time. If approved, the MSHA, incorporated by a private Act of the Legislature, would be continued as the new College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists of Manitoba. The regulation will include a transition provision to deem the Board of the Association, established under the former Act, to be the council during the transition period.

It is anticipated that the College will be established, and the first Council of the College will take office, in late 2011. The President and other officers of the Board of Directors of MSHA at that time will become the officers of the Council for the new College.

MEMBER CONSULTATION

The Ad Hoc Committee for Regulatory Reform continues to lead the policy development and other work required to establish the College. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Regulatory Reform are: Sharon Halldorson, Laura Lenton, Sharen Ritterman, Kelly Ring – Whiklo, Jerri – Lee MacKay, Tim Thorne, and Lori McKietiuik (Chair). Ex officio: Maureen Penko.

The Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis. Some of the accomplishments to date include:

- A draft scope of practice statement for each profession based on the new National Competency Profiles.
- Draft submissions requesting that audiologists and speech – language pathologists be authorized to perform specific reserved acts. These submissions also provide examples of how and when members will perform these reserved acts; as well as detailed information on the training, skills, and competencies of audiologists and speech – language pathologists that will enable them to perform these reserved acts.
- A draft by – law on Council composition, with an appropriate balance of audiologists, speech – language pathologists, and public members, as required by the RHPA. 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.
- Draft Standards of Practice for each profession which will be used by the College to educate members on the expectations of the College with respect to the conduct of its members. The Standards of Practice will also be used by members in the continuing competence program to be developed.
- A draft regulation setting out a continuing competence program as required by the RHPA.
- A draft Code of Ethics
- A draft Practice Direction on Records
- A draft Registration Regulation

As you will see, all of these documents are “Drafts”. The next step in the process is to consult with MSHA members and other stakeholders. MSHA plans to survey the membership for comments on all of the regulations, by – laws, and other documents described above.

Starting in December 2010, members will receive a request for comments from MSHA by e – mail or Canada Post that will provide background information as well as access to a survey tool that will be used to collect and analyze member comments.

We are excited by the progress we are making and look forward to consulting with the members as we move forward.

Lori McKietruk
 Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Regulatory Reform