

# WHY A COLLEGE?

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## **WHY IS THE COLLEGE OF AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS BEING ESTABLISHED?**

The Government of Manitoba has deemed it so. Presently, there are a large number of inconsistencies between existing statutes for regulated health professions in Manitoba, including variations in the regulatory bodies' mandates and requirements for public representation on council.

In February, 2006, then Minister of Health, Tim Sale announced the Manitoba provincial government's intent to pursue a new legislative framework for Manitoba's 22 regulated health professions. The legislation, commonly referred to as "umbrella legislation," would bring all of the health professions under a common modern act with consistent processes and mechanisms aimed at shifting the focus from regulating people to regulating professions.

The government has committed to the principle of self – regulation and indicated that the regulatory bodies will continue to have the primary responsibility for regulating their respective professions and setting out the parameters for practice. Therefore, self – regulation in the public interest will remain the mandate of the health profession regulatory bodies.

In adopting the new legislative framework, the Manitoba government's key objectives are to improve and standardize public accountability requirements and public protection across all regulated health professions in the province and remove barriers to interdisciplinary practice.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO MOVING TO A NEW LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK?**

This undertaking by the Manitoba government to modernize the framework of all health professions legislation will result in the first opportunity for Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists to work in Manitoba under the governing structure of a college. This single – statute approach to health regulation has been carried out in a number of other Canadian jurisdictions already. These include British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta.

The proposed result of this initiative in Manitoba will be consistent, modern legislation and regulations governing health professions in the province, and an ability for government to adapt more quickly to society's rapidly changing healthcare environment when changes are necessary. Manitobans should benefit from an easier to understand common complaints and discipline framework, greater choice about accessing health care services, broader public accountability across the entire health – care provider spectrum, and a greater general understanding of how health professions are regulated.

## **ARE AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS IN MANITOBA NOW?**

Yes. The Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) is the regulatory body for Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists in the province of Manitoba. Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists have been regulated in the province of Manitoba since 1961.

In order to practice as an Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist in the province of Manitoba, one must be registered with MSHA.

## **WHEN WILL THE COLLEGE OF AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS OF MANITOBA BE ESTABLISHED?**

On June 11, 2009, *Chapter 15 - The Regulated Health Professions Act* (the RHPA) received royal assent. This new law marks the beginning of change in the manner by which health professions are regulated in Manitoba.

Manitoba Health has indicated that the professions of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology will be included in the first group of regulated health professions to be brought under the RHPA. It is anticipated that the first colleges, including the **College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Manitoba**, will be established under the RHPA in mid 2011.

## **WHAT HAPPENS TO MSHA?**

Presently, the Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) is legislated by *the Speech and Hearing Therapy Act*, to regulate the professions of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology in the province of Manitoba.

This statute, *the Speech and Hearing Therapy Act*, will be repealed. In its place, a profession – specific regulation, under the RHPA, will designate that MSHA be continued as a college to regulate the professions of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. This college will be the **College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologist of Manitoba** (CASLPM).

## **WILL THERE BE A PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY GROUP FOR AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN MANITOBA?**

Presently, no free – standing professional advocacy group for Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists exists in Manitoba. MSHA, the regulatory body, has provided some member services, which are considered professional advocacy, as a courtesy over time.

The Regulated Health Professions Act establishes a clear mandate for all health profession regulatory bodies (which will be known as colleges) to protect the public interest and separate professional advocacy from regulatory activities.

Therefore, MSHA, the regulatory body for Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists in the province of Manitoba, will be continued as the College of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPM).

A professional advocacy group is not a legislated entity. It is member driven. Membership is not mandatory. A professional advocacy group for Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists may be established at the will of members of the professions. A professional advocacy group has no legislated mandate from the government. It may seek incorporation and would proceed to create its own by – laws which would direct its conduct of business.

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