

FAQ's - College of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Health Professionals of BC [CDTHPBC]

August, 2015

What is a profession?

A Profession is a vocation requiring some significant body of knowledge that is applied with high degree of consistency in the service of some relevant segment of society. [Hodge and Johnson]

What does it mean to be a professional?

A professional can be described as a highly educated person, who enjoys a degree of work autonomy, and renders specialized services based on theory, knowledge, and skills that are most often peculiar to their profession. Professionals hold themselves ultimately accountable for the quality of their work with the patient.

What is the purpose of regulation?

Regulation provides a framework to carry out and enforce the provisions of legislation. In health care, regulation exists to ensure the public is protected when they seek or receive health care.

What does it mean to be self-regulating?

Self-regulation is based on the concept that members of a profession, based on their knowledge, skills and judgment, are best suited to govern their profession in the public interest. Self-regulation is a privilege, not a right, granted by government on behalf of the public.

Why does regulation matter?

Regulation provides assurance to the public that the members of colleges are highly trained health professionals who are accountable to a regulatory body for the quality of care they provide. Members of the public can bring concerns about a regulated care provider directly to their College.

What is the role of a health regulatory college?

Colleges protect the public by implementing, administering and enforcing healthcare legislation.

- Setting and enforcing standards and guidelines for the practice and conduct of their members.
- Making sure that regulated health professionals meet their training and educational standards before they can practice or use a professional title.
- Establishing mandatory Continuing Education [CE] requirements so that members continually improve their skills and knowledge, upholding the quality of care. Continuing Education is usually delivered by a professional association. PLI requirements are also mandated by the College.
- Acting on concerns about their member's provision of health care [discipline].

How are Colleges run?

Colleges are governed by a Board of Directors, sometimes called a Council. Each board of directors/council consists of members of the profession (elected by their peers) and one or more government-appointed public members (public members are also involved in College complaints and discipline processes). Public members provide valuable public input, oversight and representation into College policy and decision making processes.

The board's role is to regulate the profession and oversee the college's management, actions and policy development within the framework of the legislation. The profession(s) and its members are defined; the scope of practice is determined; standards of education and of ethical and competent practice are set; and systems of accountability are established through these means.

How are the dues determined?

In looking to each fiscal year, many things need to be considered as Council strives to maintain the financial stability of our organization. Prior to each fiscal year a careful analysis of operational costs and expected revenue is undertaken. Council ensures that the approved budget, including dues or fees, are consistent with council-stated goals and objectives and provides a credible projection of revenues and expenses.

Will the CDTHPBC annual dues / fees be consistent with other similar regulatory organizations?

While the initial dues / fees for the CDTHPBC are yet to be determined by the first Board or Council, the annual fees will be comparable with other organizations that also have responsibility under the BC Health Professions Act [HPA], as well as similar organizations in other provinces. In fact the annual licencing fee for the new CDTHPBC will likely be well under the average of these other regulatory colleges. This is enabled by the size of the CDTHPBC [over 8,000 registrants province wide] and the economies of scale that this size produces. Annual fees for most Health Regulatory Colleges in BC range from a low of \$450 to a high of \$750 per year. The CDTHPBC fees are projected to be at the low end of this scale.

Are fees tax deductible?

College registrants may claim fees [such as but not limited to: application fees, registration fees, renewal fees Advanced Competency fees etc.] on your personal tax return each year. Licencing fees are tax deductible.

How is a college different from a professional association?

Colleges are organizations that are delegated the authority to govern the practice of the members of a profession in the public interest. **The fundamental purpose of the college is public protection.** Professional Associations are member-centric or member-oriented organizations that promote and advocate for the profession and support of the member. They act in the professional's best interest.

Is it the College's role to advocate for me as a member ?

No, this is an association role. The College is established under statute to ensure public protection through governance of its members. i.e. establishing, maintaining and enforcing standards of registration continuing competence and standards of practice. The College may advocate for the profession provided such activity is in the public interest.

How does being regulated benefit me?

A self-regulating College determines appropriate practice standards and ensures that health professionals meet entry to practice standards and on-going competence. It is beneficial to members as the regulatory College is governed (e.g. College Council) and staffed by MLT's and MLA's who have a keen understanding of the role of the specialties. Some may not see self-regulation as a benefit and privilege until it is taken away. The legal profession in England has lost the right to self-regulation and now has administrators and bureaucrats leading their professional College... individuals that know nothing about law and the profession!

Will there be a Grandfathering Process for those currently working the Health Care system?

Those health professionals who are currently working in BC's Health Care System, public or private, will be able to apply for CDTHPBC registration and licencing and they will undergo a Grandfathering Process to determine their eligibility. This process will be in place for a specific period of time. Qualified, competent and experienced practitioners will have nothing to fear in this process. Professional Association members will likely have priority, as personal information and data is currently on file.

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