

President's Report

On March 26, Council held its semi-annual training day. The focus of the day was twofold. The first item was training on risk management. The concept of having a risk management program is relatively new among not-for-profit groups such as ours and is important when considering policy development. Secondly, the Council discussed the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care's task force on Sexual Abuse. The task force will review the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 to ensure that existing legislative measures are appropriate and effective. The issue of sexual abuse by members of regulated health professions has garnered much media and Ministry attention recently and it is important for regulators to understand the implications for members of the public.

On March 27, we held our spring Council meeting. This was my last Council meeting as President of the College as my second, one-year term as President will end on the eve of the June Council meeting. My third term on Council representing District 7 (Psychological Associates) will continue until June 2017.

The Registration Regulation ([O.Reg 74/15](#)) (<http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150074>) was proclaimed on April 7, 2015. As a reminder, the Registration Regulation moves many of those requirements, previously in our current guidelines, into regulation. This has nothing to do with the proposed registration of Psychological Associates as Psychologists nor with the proposed cessation of Master's level registration. The amended Quality Assurance Regulation ([O.Reg 209/94](#)) (www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/940209) was also proclaimed on April 7. These amendments include the authority for the College to implement more comprehensive requirements for continuing professional development and continuing education (CPD). The QA Committee is working on the details of this program and will ensure the membership is informed well in advance of the new CPD requirement

The Council continued to discuss *Shaping the Future of Psychology in Ontario*. This is specific to grandparenting psychological associates as psychologists, cessation of Master's level registration, and a mechanism to assess internationally trained applicants. During the spring and summer, the Registrar will be consulting with stakeholders as the College moves toward these proposed regulatory changes. The hope is to have draft regulation amendments ready for submission to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in 2016. In implementing these proposed changes, Council agreed that the title change should occur on the date of proclamation of the new regulation with all current psychological associates with a certificate of registration authorizing autonomous practice being given the corresponding certificate as a psychologist. To provide adequate notice to anyone in a Master's level registration stream at the time of proclamation, it is proposed that applications from individuals holding a master's degree in psychology would be accepted for three years after proclamation of the associated regulatory amendments and registration of Master's trained individuals would cease approximately nine years after the regulatory amendments came into force. Internationally trained applicants would continue to be assessed based upon education and competencies.

Last year, Council appointed a task force to review and further develop supervision standards. The task force provided a preliminary report of their work to date. They are reviewing supervision from several

perspectives including supervision of supervised practice members and of non-regulated professionals. The task force is also planning to develop “best practices” information to accompany the supervision Standards of Professional Conduct.

Finally, Council approved the budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2015-2016. As well as the ongoing initiatives of Council (e.g., Supervision Task Force, Shaping the Future of Psychology, review of Standards of Practice) it is also time for the five year review of the College’s Strategic Direction.

Several members of Council end their terms this spring. We will begin in June with some new Council members, a new Executive Committee, and renewed energy to continue regulating the profession of psychology in Ontario.

Robert Gauthier, M.Sc. M.Ed, C.Psych.Assoc.
President

