



May 12, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Mr. Deepak Anand, MPP, Chair
Ms. Tanzima Khan, Clerk
Standing Committee on Social Policy
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2

Dear Mr. Anand:

Re: Schedule 4 - Bill 283, Advancing Oversight and Planning in Ontario's Health System Act, 2021

I am the Registrar & Executive Director of the College of Psychologists of Ontario. The College is pleased to be undertaking the very important initiative to regulate the profession of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) as a new profession under the College's current governance structure. I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill; specifically, Schedule 4.

In reviewing Schedule 4 of *Bill 283, Advancing Oversight and Planning in Ontario's Health System Act, 2021*, there are comments I wish to provide with respect to Section 8; the use of restricted titles and terms and the "holding out" provisions. My interest is in ensuring clarity of language so that the legislation maintains the regulatory framework for psychologists while establishing regulation of Applied Behaviour Analysis. I believe that the proposed legislation would be considerably clearer with the addition of some language that differentiates between the members of the two professions. I have addressed each of the parts of section 8 below, providing some suggested amendments to the current wording.

Restricted titles, 8 (1) currently states that:

No person other than a member shall use the title "psychologist", "psychological associate" or "behaviour analyst" or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language. I believe that, as written, this may lead to some confusion in suggesting that a member may use any of the titles, rather than the one for which they are registered.

I suggest this section would be clearer if the reference to the two professions were separated as follows:
In the course of engaging in the practice of psychology, no person other than a member shall use the title "psychologist", "psychological associate" or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language; and, in the course of engaging in the practice of applied behaviour analysis, no person other than a member shall use the title "behaviour analyst" or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language.

Representation of qualifications, 8(2) currently states that:

No person other than a member shall hold themselves out as a person who is qualified to practise in Ontario as a psychologist, psychological associate or behaviour analyst or in a speciality of psychology or

behaviour analysis. Similar to the concern with respect to 8(1) above, this may lead to some confusion in suggesting that a member, regardless of their professional registration, may hold themselves out as qualified in either profession.

I suggest this section would be clearer if the reference to the two professions were separated as follows:
In the course of engaging in the practice of psychology, no person other than a member shall hold themselves out as a person who is qualified to practise in Ontario as a psychologist or psychological associate or in a speciality of psychology; and, in the course of engaging in the practice of applied behaviour analysis, no person other than a member shall hold themselves out as a person who is qualified to practise as a behaviour analyst or in a speciality of behaviour analysis.

Same 8 (3) currently states that:

A person who is not a member contravenes subsection (2) if the person uses the word “psychology” or “psychological”, an abbreviation or an equivalent in another language in any title or designation or in any description of services offered or provided. This section, as it reads, would appear to permit members of the profession of applied behavioural analysis to use the word “psychology” or “psychological”. These terms have been restricted to those registered to engage in the practice of psychology, and no other health profession, and this restriction should continue as part of the maintenance of the regulatory framework for psychologists.

I suggest this section would be more in keeping with the intent of the current *Psychology Act, 1991* if it read:

A person who is not a member engaged in the practice of psychology contravenes subsection (2) if the person uses the word “psychology” or “psychological”, an abbreviation or an equivalent in another language in any title or designation or in any description of services offered or provided.

Thank you for considering my comments and suggestions and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish further elaboration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Morris'.

Rick Morris, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Registrar & Executive Director
rmorris@cpo.on.ca