



## Email Update: February 2018

Welcome to the most recent update from NSBEP. In this format of communication with registrants, the Board strives to provide updates on subjects of interest to registrants of the Board.

In this update:

- Assisting with Supervision, Oral Examinations and Transfer Interviews
- Updated Information with respect to Oral Exams
- Guidance Document: A Grievance Policy may be Helpful
- NSBEP Website and Archive of Past Email Communications from NSBEP
- Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act
- Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists
- Dr. Charles Hayes

### **Assisting with Supervision, Oral Examinations and Transfer Interviews**

The Board would like to invite more registered psychologists to consider volunteering to help the Board and the profession by working with the NSBEP. For instance, consider helping with any or all of the following activities: conducting oral exams / transfer interviews and providing supervision.

In keeping with Standard IV.4 of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists, working in these capacities provides an excellent way to contribute to the continuing education and the professional and scientific growth of self and colleagues.

#### *Oral Examinations & Transfer Interviews*

Oral Examinations are conducted as candidates take the final steps towards Registration. The Oral Examination provides an opportunity for a face-to-face interaction between examiners and examinees to discuss areas of practice, professional behaviour and ethical dilemmas, and to assess the examinee's understanding of the core competencies required for psychological practice, as well as the meaning of registration and the position of psychology as a profession.

Transfer Interviews are held for psychologists who are registered in another jurisdiction and are eligible to transfer based on their full registration in another jurisdiction and their meeting certain criteria. These interviews do not result in a pass or fail but do focus on ethical practice and local jurisprudence issues. At times, the Transfer Interview Committee might recommend that a condition be added to a psychologist's registration. An example of a condition would be completing supervision for a period of time.

#### *Supervision*

The purposes of candidate register supervision are to:

To monitor the performance of candidates in the core competency areas to ensure standards are being met;

To provide opportunities for candidates to further develop their skills, knowledge, professional attitudes, and sound professional judgment.

Psychologists can act as a Supervisor for the entire duration of the candidacy period or they may choose to do so for a limited period of time.

As mentioned, there are times when supervision might be required for a registered psychologist. For instance, if a candidate has passed an oral exam with conditions, they may be registered with a condition requiring him/her to undergo an additional period of supervision to remediate concerns identified by the oral exam committee. In some instances, supervision may be required for a psychologist who has transferred from another jurisdiction.

Those who have been a Registered Psychologist for two years are eligible to volunteer to serve as a NSBEP Supervisor. The NSBEP provides Continuing Competence credits for registered psychologists acting as a NSBEP Supervisor.

The NSBEP encourages psychologists to consider becoming involved with the work of the Board. To obtain more information, or to volunteer for one of these roles, please contact Matthew Wagner, Assistant Registrar.

### **Updated Information with respect to Oral Exams**

The Board wishes to advise candidates and supervisors that the preparatory materials for the oral exam process have been revised. The new version is available via the [Supervision Section of the NSBEP website](#).

### **Guidance Document: A Grievance Policy may be Helpful**

The Board is periodically contacted by members of the public who have a concern or question involving a psychologist or their practice that does not initially seem to be a formal complaint. The following information is provided by the Board in order to offer guidance to psychologists addressing potential client concerns within their practice. [Click here to access this NSBEP document](#).

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### **NSBEP Website and Archive of Past Email Communications from NSBEP**

Registrants are always encouraged to make use of the website to keep track of any developments and to perform various tasks. For instance, the website provides access to various legislation, standards and additional guidelines NSBEP has established to direct practice along with news releases. We have different versions of "Frequently Asked Questions" to serve the various requirements of visitors to our site. We regularly add new content to these and other sections, when common questions arise.

We would like to provide a reminder that the website includes an archive of past Email Updates from NSBEP to Registrants. To access such information, please see the [Information for Registrants Section](#) of the website.

The NSBEP Directory of Psychologists is available from the website. Such information can be helpful for the public and other professionals. Please ensure that your information is accurate.

The Board site offers a Registrant Portal, which allows registrants to perform a variety of self-serve functions. In addition to renewing your registration, you can update your contact information on file with NSBEP or update your Psychological Practice Profile as required.

You can also access a Confirmation of Registration document that you can save to your

computer and/or print off if you wish to share it with others to verify your registration, e.g., an employer, insurance companies, agencies, etc. This document confirms that a psychologist's registration has been renewed and states the current year of registration.

You can return to this portal at any time in future, if you wish to obtain another Confirmation of Registration, update your contact information or psychological practice profile, or even pay a miscellaneous fee (e.g., paying an oral exam fee, reinstatement fee, etc.).

To get started with any of the self-serve functions, visit [nsbep.org](http://nsbep.org) and click on "Registrant Login" in the upper right hand screen.

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve the website, or provide additional information, please feel free to contact Matthew Wagner, Assistant Registrar.

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## Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act

As previously noted through our email update in January, the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act was passed by the legislature in the fall. This new legislation views competence and decision-making as involving numerous domains and names a variety of health professions who may conduct capacity assessment.

Regulations for the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act were approved by Governor-in-Council in preparation for the Act which came into force on December 28th. The regulations detail who can carry out capacity assessments, how they are to be conducted and what is to be included in the report.

Information on the *Act* and the duties and responsibilities of representatives, including guides and video resources, is available on the website of the Public Trustee's Office, at: <https://novascotia.ca/just/pto/adult-capacity-decision.asp>

For the regulations, visit:

<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-l.htm#acdm>

Physicians and registered psychologists are able to complete capacity assessments. Other health professionals, specifically, nurse practitioners or registered nurses, occupational therapists, and social workers will be able to conduct these assessments once they have completed the specified training.

Training will be developed in 2018 with the assistance of a capacity assessment coordinator being hired by the Public Trustee's Office. As noted in January, information sessions were scheduled by Government to discuss the new legislation in January and February.

The additional information below was recently provided to us. Therefore we wanted to include it with this email update.

The Department of Justice recently held two public information sessions on the *Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act* in Halifax and Dartmouth. Three additional sessions are planned for Truro and Sydney:

**Truro**  
**February 27 at 11 am**  
**Truro Public Library, J. Harris Read Room**  
**754 Prince Street, Truro**

Registration is not required to attend the Truro event.

**Sydney (two sessions)**  
**March 28 at 2 pm**  
**March 28 at 3:30 pm**  
**McConnell Library, Program Room**

To register for one of the Sydney sessions, please contact the McConnell Library directly at telephone 902-562-3161.

A sixth public information session is being planned for the Yarmouth area. Details on that one will be shared when they are finalized.

A video recording of the presentation that is being given at the public information sessions will soon be added to the information materials currently available on the Public Trustee Office's webpage at: <https://novascotia.ca/just/pto/adult-capacity-decision.asp>

Again, we would very much appreciate you sharing this information about the upcoming sessions in Truro and Sydney widely within the networks.

Thank you,  
Cross-departmental Working Group on the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act

## **Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists**

The [Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists](#) (Fourth Edition) was published by CPA in 2017 and adopted by NSBEP. Our website has been updated to provide the latest version of the Code of Ethics. An overview of the revisions was provided by CPA and is accessible [via their website](#).

All documentation such as the NSBEP standards, code of ethics, guidelines and legislation for psychologists is referenced in the Binder entitled Standards of Practice, which you can obtain by visiting the [Standards of Practice section of the Board's website](#).

## **Dr. Charles Hayes**

The Board has learned with regret of the death of Dr. Charles Hayes and extends their condolences to his family, friends and professional colleagues. Dr. Hayes was a great contributor to the psychology community, registrants, the public, other professions, and to the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology. Although there are many contributions that could be mentioned, some of his service to NSBEP included being among the first group of Board members, serving as Chair of the Board and Registrar. Dr. Hayes was also involved with the work of the Committee that led to the current Psychologists Act (2000).

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