



# Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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**Subject:** General Feedback from the Continuing Competence Audit  
**Date:** June 30, 2016

Dear Registrant:

We're pleased to share the results of a successful audit. In May of this year, the Board completed its review of Continuing Competence submissions for the 2015 year. Forty two registrants were randomly selected for review, representing approximately 10% of the total number of Registered Psychologists who possess full registration. Registrants selected for audit were notified by email and regular mail on February 2, 2016. Registrants who were audited, were initially provided with the results of their audit by email on May 1, 2016. This was followed by the same notice sent through regular mail, which included the return of their Continuing Competence submissions.

In general, the level of compliance was very high and the Board wishes to thank all those who submitted their materials in a timely manner upon receiving notice of audit. Of the 42 reviews completed, only three required any particular follow-up. In two cases, suggestions were made (included below under Issues and Recommendations). In the other instance, a registrant was asked to resubmit their submission and provide an appropriate level of detail, thereby enabling the reviewers to make a determination of whether the submission in fact met the requirements. Once sufficient detail was received, as a result of the resubmission, the reviewers were able to determine that this psychologist had met the standards of the Continuing Competence Program.

While the Continuing Competence program has been in effect since January 1, 2012, this was only the second audit of registrants. While reviewing the various submissions, it became clear that there were common themes where general feedback will likely prove helpful in future years.

We have set out below a list of those issues. If you wish to comment on any of these matters or have any general comments on the Continuing Competence Program, please feel free to submit them in writing to the Board.

## **Issues and Recommendations**

### *Peer Consultation*

In some instances, not enough detail was provided. The topic of discussion needs to be stated in the submission and this was not always included.

### *Practice Outcome Monitoring*

Some registrants did not submit a sample of the outcome measures they used. One psychologist cited copyright issues. The issue of copyright is raised to protect against the misuse of such materials by non-psychologists. Such materials can be sent to the regulatory body, as part of the audit process. Only the blank forms of questionnaires need to be included, obviously not confidential client information.

#### *Self-directed Reading*

Individual readings cited by registrants did not always state the specific names of articles read, which should have been included with their submission.

#### *Reported Number of Credits and Required Documentation*

Most psychologists audited were found to have exceeded the minimum requirement of 20 credits. The Board encourages registrants to include a few more credits beyond the minimum, as this facilitates the review if there are any questions about the credit weight of any particular activity. However, the Board is not suggesting that every Continuing Competence activity carried out by psychologists needs to be listed, only some additional activities should be included in the submission. The Board also wishes to stress that there is no need to be overly inclusive with documentation to support your submission. It is suggested that you simply refer to the sample submission provided by the Board and consider using this as a template for your submission.

#### *Total Number of Credits*

In many cases, psychologists did not list the total number of credits being claimed for each activity. Registrants should also total the overall number of credits at the box in bottom of the form.

We appreciate the reporting and review process requires a commitment of time and effort, yet is essential if we are to maintain our status as a self-regulating profession. We hope that registrants find this letter informative.

Sincerely,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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