

News from NSBEP: Entry Level Committee

As you may know, the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology, in collaboration with the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia, is establishing a committee to examine the question of whether NSBEP should be moving to the doctoral level for entry to practice psychology in Nova Scotia.

There are several factors that have contributed to this question arising now. The Canadian Psychological Association has identified doctoral level entry to practice for Canadian Psychology as an aspirational goal for more than a decade.

Across North America there has been a clear trend in recent years toward doctoral level entry to practice. There are fewer and fewer jurisdictions that register psychologists at the Master's level.

This trend is evident here in Canada, as well. The Ordre des Psychologues du Quebec has moved to the doctoral level for entry to practice. The College of Psychologists of New Brunswick is also moving to the doctoral level as of July 1, 2011. Likewise, the Prince Edward Island Psychologists Registration Board has begun the process of moving to the doctoral level for registration.

The Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology also has some concerns about the impact of changes to the Agreement on Internal Trade that will soon be adopted. In essence, psychology regulatory bodies across the country will have much less control over a psychologist registered in one jurisdiction transferring to another jurisdiction. NSBEP is concerned that Nova Scotia, with a lower level for entry to practice, may become a jurisdiction where applicants obtain initial registration with the ultimate goal of practicing elsewhere.

The Entry Level Committee has been asked to explore the merits of moving to the doctoral level for entry to practice psychology in Nova Scotia. The committee has also been charged with identifying barriers to such a change and any unintended consequences that may result from such a change.

The Board selected committee members from a pool of nominees in an effort to reflect a variety of constituents of psychology in Nova Scotia. Members of the committee are:

Stephen Gleich, M.Sc.
Maureen Gorman, Ph.D., Chair
Julia Holt, Ed.D.
Elizabeth W. MacInnis, M.A.
Richard G. McGillivray, Ph.D.
E. Lisa Price, Ph.D.
Michael A. Ross, Ph.D., APNS Representative

As has been stated elsewhere, NSBEP expects that this is likely to be a slow and thoughtful process. Should NSBEP decide to move to the doctoral level for entry to practice, this would have no effect on the status of psychologists currently registered at the master's level with NSBEP.

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