



Email Update: May 2020

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:

- Guidance Document on Populations
- NSBEP Supervision
- NSBEP Elections

Document on Populations

NSBEP recently developed the document Guidelines for Working with Clients whose Age Falls in Population Transition Areas. The Guidelines are intended to help psychologists in deciding whether they can provide services to an individual whose age falls a little above or below the ages for which they have demonstrated competence.

[You can review the document by clicking here.](#)

Supervision Forms

In January 2019, NSBEP revised the reporting forms and developed additional guidance on supervision reports to supplement the existing Supervision Handbook. These revisions were made in order to make the process clearer and more efficient for candidates, supervisors and those at NSBEP who are reviewing this information on a monthly basis. We would like to provide a friendly reminder to all those currently providing and receiving supervision about this information and we ask that the current version of forms be used in supervision. The forms and all of these resources can be accessed by visiting the Supervision section of the NSBEP website. We thank you for your assistance.

[Here is the link to the Supervision section of the website](#)

Changes to NSBEP Regulations regarding Elections

Amendments to the Psychologists Act in 2018 changed the process of how Psychologists become members of the NSBEP Board. Previously, Psychology members of the Board were appointed through a process overseen by the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia (APNS).

Following the amendments, for the past two years, Psychologists have been elected to the NSBEP Board in a process overseen by the Registrar. The Board reviews the election

process and regulations following each election. The Board recently approved two changes to the Regulations with the intent of making more psychologists eligible for nomination, to bring notification procedures of nominees more in line of those found in elections for government officials, and to potentially increase Board diversity.

With respect to eligibility, it will no longer be a requirement that nominees have a minimum of one year experience as a NSBEP supervisor. While the Board believes that this can be an asset in handling many of the functions of being a Board member, it recognizes that not all psychologists are in a position where they can gain this particular experience and that there are other experiences and skills that psychologists can bring to the Board.

With respect to nomination procedures, the Board wanted to increase transparency and provide more timely information regarding nominees. Currently, the names of any nominees received to date are emailed to Registrant voters 45 days before the election and again 30 days before the elections, when biographical information is also provided.

Under the revised procedures, when the election is announced and there is the initial call for nominees (at least 60 days prior to the election), all Registrants will be provided with the names of the Board Members whose terms have ended and whose positions are up for election. If they are eligible to run for another term, their intent to run, if known at that time, will be provided. The names of the Board members who will be remaining on the Board and the names of the Public Members (who are appointed by Government) will also be provided. For the psychologist Board members, in addition to name, the following information (from their public NSBEP directory listing) will also be provided: Degree, Date of Degree, City, Self-Declared Areas of Practice(s) and Self-Declared Client Population(s).

Thereafter, within 24 hours of any new nomination being approved (until nominations close 20 days prior to the election), Registrants will receive an up to date list of all of the approved nominees (candidates). This notification will include each of the nominees' Name, Degree, Date of Degree, City, Self-Declared Areas of Practice(s) and Self-Declared Client Population(s). While the Board recognizes that some may find this degree of notification unnecessary, the Board believes that this approach is more informative and timely.

The Board also hopes that providing more information in this manner could be helpful in promoting Board diversity (with respect to geography, practice areas, personal demographic characteristics, etc.) by encouraging Registrants and potential nominees to identify gaps in Board membership and potentially put their names forward for election.

[Here is a link to the revised Election Regulations.](#)

Kind regards,
Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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