

## NSBEP Email Update

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:

- NSBEP Initiative on Discrimination
- Update on COVID-19 Return to Work Guidelines FAQ
- Elections and Public Member Appointment
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### **NSBEP INITIATIVE ON DISCRIMINATION**

NSBEP is aware of the importance of current protests, movements, dialogue and social changes associated with Truth and Reconciliation, Black Lives Matter, systemic racism and discrimination in all of its forms. The topic has been discussed at the last two Board meetings, and at this time we are in the stage of data collection. The role of NSBEP is one of regulation, so our focus has been on examining if any of NSBEP's policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, etc., are discriminatory. NSBEP would like to request your assistance in finding any problems in these areas. If you feel that there are NSBEP policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, etc. that are discriminatory in nature, please help us identify them. Write [nsbep@nsbep.org](mailto:nsbep@nsbep.org) with the subject line "Concern", or write a letter addressed to the Registrar - Concern, NSBEP, Suite 455, 5991 Spring Garden Road, Halifax NS B3H 1Y9.

Depending upon the issues identified, NSBEP is also considering the possibility of forming an advisory committee. If you would like to be part of an advisory committee or know of individuals or organizations that NSBEP should consider for such a committee, please let us know, giving the reasons why.

Another important aspect of our data collection is learning more about our active registrants. When you receive notification for your registration renewal later this year, you will also be asked to complete a voluntary questionnaire about yourself and the psychological services that you provide. This survey is being used across Canada and is endorsed by the Association of Canadian Psychology Regulation Organizations (ACPRO). Information from this survey will be very important both nationally and locally in identifying strengths and gaps in psychological services as well as important information about the strengths and gaps in the diversity of psychologists providing those services. We ask that you please complete the survey when presented with the opportunity – the greater the number of psychologists completing the survey, the more it will benefit the profession's, government's and the public's understanding of psychological services.

## **RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORK FAQ**

On June 25, 2020, NSBEP developed a Frequently Asked Questions document in relation to COVID-19 and the corresponding NSBEP Guidelines for Private Practices. The FAQ document has been updated at different times and registrants notified when such updates happened. The most recent update to the FAQ document concerns reporting obligations of psychologist in relation to self-isolation on (page 5).

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

If you do pose a question in relation to the guidelines or FAQ document, please be aware that we may not be able to provide an individual response, but please check the updates for an answer to your question.

## **ELECTIONS AND PUBLIC MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

The Board was pleased to see that a number of individuals have chosen to be nominated for the upcoming election. Voting for the upcoming NSBEP election will open on September 18, 2020. Registrants will receive an email with instructions on the electronic voting process. Similar to the prior voting process used by NSBEP registrants, this option will allow you to login using your NSBEP credentials.

The Board is also pleased to advise that our third Public Member Board position has been filled. Phoebe Mandry was appointed by the Governor in Council, effective August 27, 2020. We would like to extend a warm welcome Phoebe. Below is Phoebe's mini Bio.

*Phoebe Mandry attended Laurentian University and Collège Boréal, in which she graduated with honors in both; Medical Radiation Technology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography. She has worked in research at the Centre Hospitalier Élisabeth Bruyère in Ottawa, as well as l'Hôpital Montfort and the Ottawa Hospital. In addition to working in health care, Phoebe has also worked as a youth outreach facilitator, a youth and woman representative of Ottawa and Sudbury ON, respectfully; for the Metis Nation of Ontario, for which she is still a recognized indigenous community member. Having moved to Nova Scotia 6 years ago from Ontario, Phoebe has worked as a sonographer at the IWK Health Center, and as a Medical Radiation Technologist / Sonographer at the NSHA central zone. She also has worked with an international non-profit organization called Rad-Aid, in which she taught ultrasound and x-ray; as well as helped establish imaging protocols and policies for the development of a Diagnostic Imaging department in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. She is currently a member of the NSHA central zone safety committee, the Quality Assurance Subcommittee of Nova Scotia in Diagnostic Imaging and the Nova Scotia Association of Medical Radiation Technologists. Being a francophone, indigenous woman in Halifax with a diverse background and experience with Healthcare and community outreach to a varied demographic, she brings a unique perspective to the board.*

## **NSBEP ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

The Board Office team has also been fortunate to add a part-time administrative support person. Houda Zaazaa began working over the summer and she is providing backup for Lee Outerbridge, the Board Office Coordinator. Houda also provides administrative support to the Registrar and Assistant Registrar.

## **EPPP TESTING CENTER**

In May 2020, the EPPP testing centers reopened across the US and Canada, but they are operating at reduced capacity and dealing with a backlog, all due to COVID-19. Earlier this year, NSBEP automatically granted candidates an extension if they experienced a delay in writing the EPPP due to the temporary closure of and backlogs at testing sites. The NSBEP will continue to extend the deadlines of candidates who are affected by site limitations and experiencing a delay in writing the EPPP due to the restrictions. No candidates will be penalized because of these restrictions in relation to COVID-19.

## **ORGAN DONATION ACT**

Over the summer, the Nova Scotia Government announced that the Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act will come into effect on January 18, 2021. Regulators were asked to share this information with their registrants.

It was noted that the legislation will make it possible for more Nova Scotians to donate their organs and tissues at the time of their death, and help Nova Scotians waiting for transplant to get one sooner by increasing available organs and tissues.

More information is available at  
<https://novascotia.ca/organ-and-tissue-donation-changes/>

Sincerely,  
Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology | 455 - 5991 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, B3H 1Y6  
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