

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

**Broadcast from the Conference Room, CASLPM Office  
Unit – 1, 333 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg MB**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2018  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

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**REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE**

**Lori McKietruk**

Good Afternoon Everyone,

It is a pleasure to speak to you this afternoon. I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments of the College over the course of the last year and provide you with some information of changes coming to the professions in the future.

**ELECTIONS**

The College held elections in the fall 2017. For the first time in its history, the College held a contested election for a position on Council. Mr. Florent Gaudry, audiologist, was elected and Ms. Nancy Eason, speech – language pathologist, was acclaimed to Council, both in District 1, replacing out – going Council members Ms. Mandy Watson and Ms. Lindsey Lorteau, respectively.

The College is waiting appointments from the Minister to fill two public representative vacancies on Council.

**NATIONAL COLLABORATION**

The College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologist of Manitoba is a member of the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech – Language Pathology Regulators, commonly referred to as CAASPR.

CAASPR, as its name suggests, is a national organization. Each of the regulators from all eight regulated jurisdictions in Canada are represented. Within this national context, the regulators work together to advance the regulation of the professions, focusing on projects that require collective action.

One recent example of this is the validation and approval of Competency Profile packages for each profession.

The National Competency Profiles are a key component of CAASPR's national competency-based, entry-to-practice assessment project. The goal of the project is to harmonize the registration process for audiologists and speech – language pathologists across all regulated jurisdictions to provide standardized outcomes, enhanced public safety and improved labour mobility. This project has been funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

Work began on the Competency Profiles in September 2016 and was completed in April 2018. In the developmental phase, the process involved the extensive participation of 22 Subject Matter Experts from across Canada, who represented a diversity of clients served, practice settings, years of experience, and regions of the country.

If you recall, in June of 2017, every audiologist and speech – language pathologist registered in Manitoba was invited to participate in a survey as part of the validation phase of the competency profiles project. Almost 2000 clinicians and academics from across Canada responded to the survey.

Additionally, in February and March 2018, over 150 individuals, including clinicians, academics, and regulators from across the country provided feedback regarding the sub-competencies by participating in focus groups.

The Competency Profile packages for each profession are now complete. Each package includes a preamble to the profession, a set of essential competencies, and the corresponding sub-competencies. Together, all the components of the National Competency Profiles detail the professional competencies required of a clinician upon entry-to-practice in Canada to achieve safe and effective practice of either audiology or speech – language pathology, whichever the case may be.

The College will use the National Competency Profiles within its provincial regulatory framework. These Competency Profiles will form the basis for revised assessment tools for the provisional mentorship program, a self – assessment tool as part of the Continuing Competency Program for all registrants, and in the assessment of service provision and compliance in complaints investigation matters.

A second recent milestone achieved by the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) was the contract negotiations to establish a national entry-to-practice examination for both audiology and speech – language pathology.

The first administration of these examinations is scheduled for the fall of 2020. This will be a significant addition to the requirements for registration as either an audiologist or speech – language pathologist in Manitoba, and every other regulated province in Canada.

The examinations will be based on the National Competency Profile packages. Many of the details regarding the implementation of the examinations are yet to be determined. What I can tell you is this: if you are a registered audiologist or speech – language pathologist with the College in Manitoba now, and you continue to hold valid registration and certificate of practice, you will not be required to write the exam.

In fact, all Aud and SLPs who are registered in regulated jurisdictions throughout Canada at the time the Examination is launched will not be required to pass the Examination to maintain licensure.

New graduates of Canadian programs and international programs alike, will be required to write the exam.

As well, audiologists and SLPs who are not registered with a provincial regulator in Canada and who wish to work in a regulated province will be required to write the Examination to qualify for licensure once the exam is implemented.

This is a tremendous accomplishment for the professions of audiology and speech – language pathology. The addition of a mandatory, non – exemptible, entry-to-practice examination will advance the registration process across Canada by providing a tool to fairly and consistently measure an applicant's knowledge, skill, and judgement. Most other regulated professions already use a national entry-to-practice exam as part of the assessment process for licensure.

## **COLLEGE WEBSITE**

I want to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the College website and highlight a few key areas that provide valuable information to both registrants of the College and your clients, the consuming public.

The FOR THE PUBLIC section, as its name suggests, is targeted to consumers. There is information here that is also important for registrants to understand:

- The Public Register provides a means by which a client or employer may verify that an individual is licensed to practice either audiology or speech – language pathology in the province of Manitoba;
- The Complaints process is outlined. One of the primary legislated responsibilities of the College is to provide a means by which an individual may file a complaint against a registrant. A formal complaint must be submitted in writing.

If an individual is concerned about the practice or conduct of an audiologist or speech – language pathologist, they are encouraged to call the College and speak to the Registrar. Discussion with the Registrar may assist the individual in determining whether they wish to proceed with a formal complaint, or whether there may be an alternate path to resolving the matter.

- There is information specific to employers of audiologists and speech – language pathologists

- Details about Health Profession Corporations are provided here and a Record of the HPC permits granted by the College is accessible.

I encourage you to take some time to familiarize yourself with these aspects of the website. At any time, if you have questions or would like further information about a topic, please call the office and a staff member would be pleased to assist you.

As a point of interest, I would like to mention that soon Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists will be joined by Registered Nurses in being regulated under *the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)* in Manitoba. This tremendous accomplishment for the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) comes into force on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

In closing, I would like to commend all registrants of the College of Audiologists and Speech – Language Pathologists for their contentious practice and commitment to providing safe and ethical health care service for the citizens of Manitoba.

The College Staff are dedicated to carrying out the legislated responsibilities of regulation to ensure that professionals who practice audiology and speech – language pathology maintain the privilege of self – regulation in Manitoba.

Thank you very much for your time today.