

To assist in the governance of the practice of chiropractic in the public interest

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It is our pleasure to share with the chiropractic profession in Canada a brief outline of the Canadian Federation of Chiropractic Regulatory Boards (CFCRB). This is one arm of the profession that is very poorly understood by many practitioners but one which has tremendous impact on the profession in the public interest.

The CFCRB was established in 1978 with the mandate of providing education, networking and informational support concerning matters of licensure, testing and discipline to the member provincial licensing boards.

The specific objectives of the CFCRB are:

- To promote unified standards of operation for licensing boards.
- To aid in problems confronting licensing boards.
- To promote cooperation between licensing boards.
- To encourage uniformity of educational standards in chiropractic colleges.
- To encourage, support, foster, and promote the advancement and practice of chiropractic.
- To disseminate information of mutual interest to licensing boards.

Currently, all legislated jurisdictions in Canada, with the exception of the British Columbia College of Chiropractors, are members of the CFCRB. This creates a unique forum for discussion among regulatory boards from Alberta to Newfoundland to the Yukon.

Over the last several years, this forum was used to deal with the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) which was imposed on all professions by the provincial and federal governments. The AIT mandated all regulated professions (indeed all aspects of Canadian economic activity) to drop all unreasonable barriers to movement between jurisdictions within our country. What this means for the average chiropractor is that if you are licensed and in good standing in one province or territory, you will be able to obtain a license in another jurisdiction with minimal procedures in place only to protect the public interest.

Through open communication and debate at meetings

convened by the CFCRB, the chiropractic profession was able to determine an acceptable level of understanding among regulatory boards in order to establish a Chiropractic Recognition Agreement on the AIT that recognizes mobility rights while maintaining appropriate public interests. Governments and other professions have acknowledged the Chiropractic agreement for its leadership in compliance with AIT provisions. (contact Peter Waite for Text of the Agreement.) Unfortunately, the British Columbia College of Chiropractors is the only regulatory board in Canada that has not ratified this Agreement.

As a result of the AIT process, the CFCRB was instrumental in seeing all regulatory boards move away from individual provincial clinical exams and towards a national exam organized by the Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board (CCEB). The CCEB, by providing expert examining services to all boards, has the resources to provide the profession with increasingly sophisticated testing measures.

The CFCRB is also a member of the Council on Chiropractic Education of Canada and supports the accreditation process through which our chiropractic schools are themselves examined.

The CFCRB has cooperated with the CCA and CMCC to ensure that the profession was represented during the hearings held across the country by Health Canada into the development of new guidelines for Natural Health Care Products. Subsequently the CCA, CMCC and CFCRB made a submission to the Office of Natural Health Products and we will continue to monitor this issue.

The CFCRB also works with regulatory bodies from the health care professions as well as many other disciplines. The CFCRB joined with 20 other professions to lobby the Federal Government with respect to changes to the Immigration Act regulations regarding recognition of foreign training qualifications. In addition, the CFCRB is a founding member of the Network of Regulatory Agencies, which brings together representatives of many self-regulated professions to share information on emerging issues.

The CFCRB has taken on the role of overseeing “speci-

alties” within the chiropractic profession in Canada. The CCA passed this responsibility to the CFCRB and the transition was completed this year. A final framework is being implemented to harmonize requirements for specialty colleges and open the way for new groups deserving specialty recognition. Regulatory boards may now look with confidence that a reliable standard will be maintained when specialty colleges receive recognition from the CFCRB (see pages 118–125).

Recently, the CCA has invited the CFCRB to partner with it in the development of new clinical practice guidelines. These guidelines will be developed very differently from the Glenerin process, and it is hoped that they will engage the profession in a productive dialogue.

The CFCRB Board of Directors is made up of a wonderful variation of chiropractors from across the country. These are individuals who are volunteering their time and energy to ensuring the standard of chiro-practors is excellent and the public – our patients – receives the very best that chiropractors have to offer. Unfortunately, regulatory boards must deal with issues that are uncomfortable and even difficult, but it is a critical role within the profession – one which we must take seriously as a self-regulating profession or we will lose that privilege. (The Yukon Territory is not self-regulated and is governed by the Department of Justice due to the small number of chiropractors.)

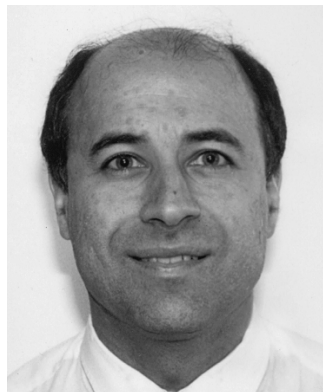
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