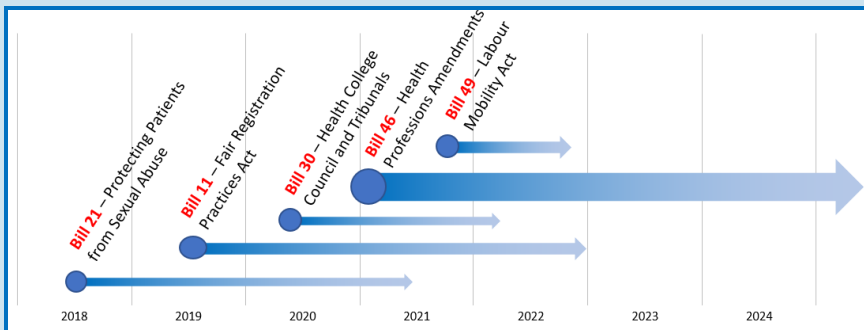


ACSLPA INSIGHTS

Legislative Updates: Regulatory Colleges and Professional Associations

As legislation evolves the **mandate** for Alberta’s Health Colleges, including ACSLPA, also evolves. As the graphic below shows, there have been several **bills** proposed in the last four years that have impacted health colleges. This article will focus on Bill 46 and the clear lines that have been drawn between the activities of **regulatory colleges** and **professional associations**.



Bill 46 was proclaimed in December 2020 and is in the process of being implemented over the next few years. One provision that comes into force March 2022 is a requirement for all health colleges to divest themselves of any association and association-like activities.

Although historically ACSLPA did perform some association-like functions (as was common for professional regulatory organisations at one time), the College’s first and only mandate is to govern and direct its regulated members in their professional practice in a manner that protects the public interest. Any activities which are not consistent with this mandate are considered association-like and can no longer be performed by ACSLPA. For example, advocating for increased funding for speech language pathology and audiology services is not considered to be a component of regulating members in their professional practice. Though funding for health services is important it is not an activity regulatory colleges are allowed to participate in.

Over the past several years, ACSLPA has been divesting itself of various association-like functions. Although there are very few association-like activities that ACSLPA still practices, members may notice some changes as we approach the March 2022 deadline. For example, we will no longer be listing external job postings on our website and will no longer be able to share information about clinical research or participation in research studies.

If you have any questions about the topics explored in this article please submit them to feedback@acslpa.ca

Mandate: This is the formal command given to Albertan health colleges by the Health Professions Act (HPA) which lays out the actions they are authorized to perform.

Bill: a proposed piece of legislation that, once passed, becomes law.

Regulatory College: A term used to refer to the regulatory bodies under which Alberta’s health professions are organized. Their mandate is to govern and direct the regulated members of their respective professions in a manner which protects the public interest.

Professional Associations: A group which represents the interests of a particular profession. Two examples are AA of A (Alberta Association of Audiologists) and SAC (Speech Language & Audiology Canada) who work to support and promote the interests of SLPs and audiologists in Alberta.