



Alberta College of  
Speech-Language Pathologists  
and Audiologists

# ACSLPA INSIGHTS

## Legislative Updates: Continuing Competence Program

**Changes Are Coming to ACSLPA's Continuing Competence Program in 2022!** This year, during renewal, members were advised that they were not required to input a continuing competence/learning goal for the 2022 practice year. This is because, going forward, goal setting will no longer be a component of ACSLPA's Continuing Competence Program (CCP). The College is currently in the process of revising our CCP, with the aim of **implementing the new program for next year's renewal period.**

The Bill 46 Amendment to the Health Professions Act requires the establishment of a CCP within the College's Standards of Practice which:

- Must provide for regulated members or categories of regulated members to **maintain competence** and to **enhance the provisions of professional services** by participating in a program for self-directed professional development, and
- May provide for practice visits, examining, interviewing or other **competence assessment of the regulated members** or categories of regulated members.

**Questions about Bill 46?** Check out our last Insights article (Nov 2021) which covered some of the other legislative updates in Bill 46. Keep an eye out for more Insights articles in the Legislative Updates series!

Having regulated members engage in continuing competence activities is one critical way in which ACSLPA fulfils its mandate to protect the public. However, as the literature—and our understanding of competence programs—has evolved, there is less evidence to suggest that the College's current CCP supports or enhances members' competence to practice. Moreover, the current program does not allow for the identification of members most at risk for competence drift and therefore does not enable the provision of supports to members who may fall below competency requirements.

**Competence Drift:** refers to a decline in competence over time.

To ensure that the new CCP addresses these concerns, staff have been working with ACSLPA's Competence committee to complete a comprehensive literature review and environmental scan of other regulatory Colleges. This work by ACSLPA staff and members revealed the importance of the following in maintaining or enhancing competence:

- Continuing education and learning,
- Engaging and dialoguing with peers, colleagues, or supervisors,
- Being able to identify risks to maintaining competence,
- Having supports in place to mitigate known risks, and
- Psychological engagement and investment in one's profession.

**Competence Committee:** a regulatory committee formed by ACSLPA members of both professions. This committee works with ACSLPA staff to manage matters of continuing competence.

With the revisions to the CCP, ACSLPA is aiming to incorporate all the important aspects noted above. **The goal of the new program is to encourage members to think about the real and potential risks to their own competence, engage members in maintaining and enhancing their competence, adequately assess member's competence, and, importantly, to support members who are experiencing or are at risk of competence drift.** The new CCP is intended to be less time and labour intensive to members, and to provide a more meaningful way for members to reflect on their practice.

ACSLPA knows this is a big change and that members will be eager to learn more. Plenty of updates are planned for the new year to provide everyone with the details they need. As always, please watch your email for messages from ACSLPA. We will also be sharing this information on our social media accounts, through webinars, and in YouTube videos. If you have any questions about this article or the ACSLPA CCP you can contact the office at [feedback@acslpa.ca](mailto:feedback@acslpa.ca). ▀