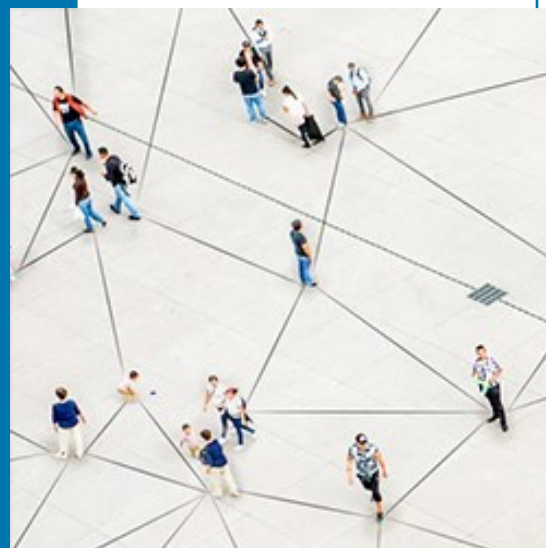


In July of 2022, ACSLPA and four other SLP and audiology regulators across the country (Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Manitoba) implemented an agreement that allows a registrant who holds a full practice permit in one participating province (the primary province) to apply for Cross Provincial Practice registration in another participating province (the secondary province).

## What does the cross provincial practice registration allow?

The cross provincial practice registration allows a registrant to provide up to a maximum of 200 hours of direct client care hours, either virtually or in person in the secondary province, over a 12-month period. In a nutshell, because the secondary registration is tied to the primary registration, we don't require the registrant to complete the continuing competence requirements in both provinces, and the cost of the secondary registration can be less than the cost of a full registration. Were a complaint ever to arise, the agreement also allows the two regulators to share information about the complaint in order to determine the best way to proceed.

Although one can not renew their cross provincial registration annually, it is possible to re-apply for cross provincial practice after the initial 12-month registration has ended, as long as one's practice does not exceed the 200-hour maximum.



## If regulation of health professions occurs at a provincial level in Canada, why is ACSLPA offering this cross-provincial registration?

While various virtual assessment and intervention options have been available on a limited basis in the health professions for many years, the pandemic truly accelerated adoption to warp speed! There have also been situations where, although individuals live in one province, the closest tertiary services available are across provincial borders (think about residents who live in eastern BC accessing tertiary health services in Alberta), and while a client may cross the border to see their SLP or audiologist in the province where they are registered, the client may continue to require follow up once they return home. The Cross Provincial practice registration helps to allow for the provision of seamless service across borders on a time limited basis.

It's also fair to say that some segments of the public now want, and expect, virtual services, and they expect choice in services and service providers. The Cross Provincial Practice Registration builds in a bit more flexibility for clients while still ensuring that, as regulators, we meet the requirements of our mission, which is to ensure protection of the public, by regulating and ensuring the competent, safe, and ethical practice of audiologists and SLPs.

## If cross-provincial practice is a good idea for both clients and for registered SLPs and audiologists, how come it's only recently been adopted by regulators?

The legislative schemes that were developed to regulate professions never contemplated the possibility of virtual or distance services (which also speaks to the fact that they were developed many, many years ago). In particular, legislation is silent on the following:

- Cross-border practice provided when the practitioner and client are in different provinces or countries;
- How cross-border complaints should be handled; and
- The rapid evolution of new technologies, tools, and platforms that make our jobs do-able virtually.

Unfortunately, as each of our legislations has typically only addressed practice within our own provincial boundaries, it has made it difficult to nimbly address cross-provincial considerations. We hope this cross provincial practice agreement is the beginning of a positive and enduring collaborative effort. We are optimistic that enhanced communication with government and other stakeholders will improve understanding in relation to legislative changes needed to facilitate access to, and regulation of, virtual services.

## Where can I learn more about cross provincial registration?

Visit the [Cross-Provincial Practice](#) webpage to view detailed information.

Questions? Please email:

- [registration@acslpa.ca](mailto:registration@acslpa.ca) ,or
- [deputyregistrar@acslpa.ca](mailto:deputyregistrar@acslpa.ca)

If you found this article interesting, the rest of our Insights publications can be accessed on our website, [acslpa.ca](http://acslpa.ca).

If you have any questions about these topics, the legislation behind them, or the way ACSLPA functions please email [feedback@acslpa.ca](mailto:feedback@acslpa.ca) or call 780-944-1609 ext. 101. ■