

May 11, 2021

Ontario Physiotherapy Association
110 Sheppard Ave E. Ste 810
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Paulette Gardiner Millar,

I am in receipt of your letter of May 5, 2021 and thank you for your interest and engagement regarding entry to practice processes at the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario.

The College of Physiotherapists of Ontario is fully aware of the administrative challenges to the entry to practice processes brought on by the inability of the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) to administer the practical exam.

Applicants to the profession must demonstrate competence from both a knowledge (written) and practical perspective. Once an applicant has demonstrated an inability to satisfy a requirement (ie. by failing the practical examination), then by virtue of its mandate to protect the public, the College must restrict the ability of such an applicant from practice.

The requirement to pass the practical component of the examination is not a College bylaw. Therefore, the College of Physiotherapists cannot change it on its own. It is a law - Regulation 532/98, clause 23(4), which states:

23(4) A person who has failed the practical component of the examination is not entitled to apply for a certificate of registration authorizing provisional practice.

This law is designed to protect the public of Ontario. The College will not ask the Ministry of Health to amend a regulation at this time, as such a change will have broader implications. Regardless, regulation change is a process that takes an extended time, perhaps years.

The College is in the process of investigating alternatives option to allow applicants to register. As per the law, it must be a practical examination. Further, it must be valid, reliable, and intended to assess entry level competencies in Canada. Should you be aware of any examination process that you believe fulfills all of these parameters, please let me know as soon as possible. However, and again, exemption from the examination is contrary to the law.

Further, the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario has created an Entry to Practice Working Group, and has called a special meeting of its Council to expedite its creation. It is the first time in its history that a special meeting has been called.

In any discussion with the Ontario Fairness Commissioner, we hope your conversation will explore balancing the College's duty to public protection with access to the profession.

Best of luck,



Darryn Mandel, PT
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