

May 5, 2021

Mr. Darryn Mandel, President
College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
375 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2J5

RE: Provisional Practice and Entry to Practice

Dear Mr. Mandel,

I am writing in follow-up to our letter to you dated December 1, 2020. You may recall that letter requested that the College devise solutions to allow the return to provisional practice for the approximate 77 candidates who did not pass their first challenge of the clinical examination held in November 2019 and bring forward a process for all candidates who have been unable to complete the clinical examination to qualify for independent practice registration since that time.

We hope that you can appreciate that a quick and effective solution is necessary because this situation impacts directly on individuals' ability to exercise their right to earn a living in the profession that they have trained for and/or to move beyond the limitations of provisional practice to full independent practice. In all cases the obstacles that they face to practice their chosen profession are not of their making in any way and have become increasingly unreasonable due to the delays in accessing the national clinical exam since the pandemic began.

Though the Council discussed the issue as a result of our letter at the meeting in December 2020 and more recently after the third cancellation of the examination at the Council meeting held on March 23, 2021, we still have not received a response. We understand fully the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the impact this has had on offering the clinical component of the Physiotherapy National Examination and the need to look for alternate solutions to ensure timely safe entry to practice by candidates to meet the health care needs of Ontarians at this time. Nevertheless other professions have done so and within the physiotherapy community the College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia has initiated bylaw changes to address these concerns.



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After a year and half, in the most recent update on April 16th from the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, there is still no clarity for candidates in Ontario on what alternative will be admissible for registration and timelines for implementation. This is not acceptable. The OPA remains committed to working with the College and all stakeholders to expedite a solution so that qualified candidates can enter practice as soon as possible. Nevertheless, due to the lack of transparency and action by the College, we have reluctantly concluded that we have no option but to elevate this matter to the Fairness Commissioner on behalf of candidates and the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Gardiner Millar".

Paulette Gardiner Millar
President

CC: Theresa Stevens, Vice President
Rod Hamilton, Registrar