

Standards Committee Report
Report to the Annual General Meeting

Psychological Association of Manitoba

April 28, 2010

The Standards Committee reviewed four concerns from the public and psychologists during the past year.

The first involved the improper use of the words “Psychological Assessment” in a report by an individual who held a doctoral degree in psychology but who was not registered with the Psychological Association of Manitoba. A letter was sent to this individual advising that this action contravened the *Psychologists Registration Act* and demanded that the individual refrain from any further use of the terms and titles referred to in Section 11(1) of the *Act* in describing the services provided.

The second concern related to a fully registered psychologist from another Canadian Province intermittently practicing psychology in Manitoba without registration in Manitoba with the Psychological Association of Manitoba (P.A.M.). The individual was advised that such practice violated the *Psychologists Registration Act* and was asked to cease this practice immediately. The psychologist was also advised to contact the PAM Registrar to discuss the membership opportunities available should the individual wish to continue to practice in Manitoba.

The third issue revolved around an individual who is not a psychologist but has frequently been referred to in various media reports as a “sports psychologist”. This appears to be an increasing problem for psychology regulators across Canada and it does not appear to be specifically related to the Olympics that were recently held in Vancouver. In the Manitoba case, a very careful review of statements to the media by the individual who was the object of the concern failed to reveal a single instance in which the individual self-identified as a “psychologist” or “sports psychologist”. Although there was no indication that the individual had acted to correct the incorrect attributions that he/she was a psychologist, it was decided to advise the media outlets of their incorrect designation of this individual as a psychologist and/or sports psychologist.

The fourth concern related to an individual who complained about medical reports prepared by two physicians. A careful review of the physician reports indicated that nothing in the reports violated any provisions of the *Psychologists Registration Act*. In our response to the complainant we stressed the point that we were not expressing any opinion about the content or substance of the physician reports but only that they did not violate the *Act* governing the practice of psychology. We indicated that further concerns about the physicians’ reports could be directed to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba if the individual so desired.

Dr. Jane Bow, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee (CE), reported that the Committee completed the first audit of continuing education claims by the P.A.M. membership. The audit, which involved about 10% of the P.A.M. membership, will now be conducted annually. The recent audit appears to have gone fairly smoothly although the Continuing Education Committee is working on revising the guidelines to clarify questions and concerns from the membership about continuing education. The Committee is also working on a documentation form for continuing education events that do not provide certificates of attendance for P.A.M. verification purposes. A complete update on the Continuing Education Committee's activities may be found in the Manitoba Psychologist, Volume 26 (Number 2), December 2009 which is available on the P.A.M. web site.

Dr. Hal Wallbridge, Chair of the Jurisprudence Examination Committee, reported that the Jurisprudence Examination, which is now mandatory for all new applicants for P.A.M. membership, has established a passing score of 80% correct. The examination has been generally well received by applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair
Standards Committee
Psychological Association of Manitoba