

**BOARD MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting No. 76**

**Date:** May 29, 2021

**Place:** Zoom Videoconference

**Members Present via Videoconference:**

Sonia Andhi Bilkhu	Ann Joseph
Selena Bateman	Christina Rodrigues
Ellice Daniel	Amy Rosborough
Denese Espeut-Post	Natalie Shorten

**Regrets:**

Jim Campbell  
Cheney Cloke  
Sonya C. Pighin  
Sandra Wilson

**Staff in Attendance:**

Registrar Mark Hillenbrand  
Executive Assistant to the Registrar Tracy Singh

**Guests:**


Registrar and CEO Dr. Andrea Kowaz, R Psych  
Director of Policy and External Relations David Perry

**1) Call to Order**

Denese Espeut-Post, Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and welcomed members and staff to the meeting. Registrar Mark Hillenbrand opened with the following land acknowledgment.

**2) Acknowledgement of Traditional lands**

We acknowledge that the office of the BC College of Social Workers is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the x̣ẉməθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam people). Further, this acknowledgment, gratitude and respect extends to all the First Nations communities on whose traditional territories the British Columbia College of Social Workers builds relationships and conducts business.

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### 3) Welcome

- a. Brief check-in

### 4) Approval of Agenda

The members of the Board considered the draft agenda. Consensus expressed to approve agenda.

### 5) Preview of Meeting Topics

- a. BC Modernization of Professional Regulation
  - Health Professions Act Amalgamation
  - College of Psychologists
  - College of Social Workers, Psychologists and Counseling Professionals

Chair Denese Espeut-Post provided a review of the summary of the previous meeting which occurred speaking to the aforementioned above noted topics.

- b. BC Green Party Private Members Bill

### 6) BC College of Psychologists Guests

Denese Espeut-Post, Chair of the Board welcomed to the meeting at 9:33 am guests Dr. Andrea Kowaz, R. Psych, Registrar and CEO and Mr. David Perry, Director of Policy and External Relations.

Provided, was an overview and context for the Health Professions Act Modernization and the idea of combining like professions (Psychology, Social Work and Counseling Work) into one College.

Discussion amongst the group for feedback and comments.

- What would an amalgamated College mean for title protection and fee structure?
- What lessons were learned from the Nurses College and Dental Professions amalgamation? The Nurses and Dental Professionals have amalgamated in Colleges that represent like practice.
- Board of Psychologists guests made the point that Social Work, Psychology and Counseling are like professions.
- Social Work Board member expressed curiosity regarding the level of commitment in moving forward if the Board were to participate in exploration of a combined College of Social Work, Psychology and Counseling. What happens if the proposed idea does not make sense?
- Due to the movement of modernization in the Health Professions Act, the College of Psychology will likely land in the large fifth College, possibly in the future Social Work will be moved to the Health Professions Act and would likely land in the same large fifth College.
- Social Work Board member expressed curiosity about the potential risks of Social Work amalgamating in the Health Professions Act.

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- The risk of the modernized Health Professions Act limiting the number of profession specific members on Boards was discussed.
- The College of Psychology representatives expressed the sentiment that a key component of having like Colleges together is that the process modernization, revising and re-writing legislation would be informed by similarities.
- The College of Psychology representatives noted that the Cayton report noted amalgamation should be organic and not imposed.

Guests left the meeting at 10:43 am.

## 7) Board Discussion

- a. BC College of Psychologists – request for joint letter to government.

Discussion - Is this Board interested to move to a next step?

- Options regarding a letter include: Joint Letter, Sole Letter, No action.
- The idea that stakeholder engagement should be a part of any movement that impacts the regulation of social work and a potential change from a sole College to a combined College.
- Discussion include sentiment that Social Work has unique professional competencies and interventions, has been independent for a while and remaining an independent College going forward may make sense.
- Discussion included concept that synergies may be achieved in combining like Colleges such as Social Work, Psychology and Counseling.

**Motion 6.1** Consensus expressed to send a solo letter to the Minister of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, with copies sent to the Minister of the Ministry of Health and the College of Psychologists.

- b. BC Green Party Private Members Bill

A received email provided information on Social Work Regulation and Modernization of Professional Regulation in British Columbia. The bill would change the Health Professions Act in that it would require the government to assess any application on the basis of public protection.

Consensus expressed that no action necessary.

## 13) Future Meetings/Event Dates

- a. 2021 Board Meeting Dates
- June 19
  - August 7
  - September 11
  - October 16
  - November 27

## 16) Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

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**Action Item List**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Member / Staff</b>
Letter	Letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Copies to Ministry of Health and the College of Psychologists.	Denese Espeut-Post, Mark Hillenbrand

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**Decision Summary**

<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Motion 2021 6.1	To send letter to the Minister of the Ministry of Children and Family Development expressing willingness to exploring modernization of social work regulation from the lens of enhancing public protection.	Consensus expressed.

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