



1. Authority of the Practice Review Committee

*Improved Public Interest
Improved Regulatory Effectiveness and Efficiency*

To protect the public, Members and Permit Holders must maintain acceptable standards of competence and practice. APEGA must have clear authority to develop appropriate standards and ensure Members and Permit Holders comply with them.

Background

- Currently, the Practice Review Board (PRB) has authority to:
 - conduct practice reviews of Members and Permit Holders
 - inquire into and advise Council accordingly about standards of admission, practice and competency, the practice of the professions generally, and any other matter related to competence in the practice of the professions
 - refer a matter to the Investigative Committee
 - make any order the Discipline Committee is authorized to make against a Member following a discipline hearing
 - evaluate practice standards and guidelines
 - administer the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program
 - assess applications for resumption to practice
- The Government of Alberta's *Principles and Policies Governing Professional Legislation in Alberta* document (the Mirosh Report) mandates that each self-governing professional association shall establish a statutory committee whose function is to advise the governing body of the association with respect to desirable standards of practice and competence and review the practice of licensed practitioners to ensure that they are maintaining acceptable standards.

Why is this important?

- To protect the public, Members and Permit Holders must be held to established acceptable standards of competence and practice.
- APEGA must have clear authority to develop appropriate standards and ensure Members and Permit Holders comply with them.

- As a self-regulating authority, APEGA is responsible for ensuring Members and Permit Holders are providing standardized professional practices across the province.
- To match the Mirosh report, the name of the statutory committee should be changed from the Practice Review Board to the Practice Review Committee.

Proposed legislative change

It is recommended the legislation be amended to give the Practice Review Committee (PRC) explicit:

Existing

- responsibility to develop the standards for the mandatory CPD program.
- responsibility to develop practice standards, practice guidelines, and practice bulletins.
- authority to develop practice review procedures and protocols.
- authority to refer a matter to the Investigative Committee or Registrar.
- authority to subcommittees and task forces, as required.

New

- authority to establish the qualifications that practice reviewers must have to conduct practice reviews of Members and Permit Holders.
- authority to establish panels with decision-making authority and authority to make orders related to practice review findings.
- authority to establish the eligibility standards for registration as a Permit Holder.

It is recommended the legislation be amended to clarify that:

- Council has the explicit authority to approve all APEGA practice standards and related bulletins to which Members and Permit Holders will be held and to approve the requirements for the mandatory CPD program.
- The PRC has the authority to approve practice guidelines.

Effects of the proposed changes

- It will authorize APEGA through its practice reviewers and panels, to ensure Members and Permit Holders comply with established practice standards to protect the public.
- It will explicitly clarify that the role and authority of the PRC is to focus on:

- professional competency through developing and enforcing practice standards, guidelines, and bulletins across the professions.
 - developing the standards of the mandatory CPD program and setting related policies.
- It will provide an improved mechanism for practice reviewers to work collaboratively with Members and Permit Holders to educate and assist them in improving their professional practices.
- It will authorize the PRC to establish panels with decision-making authority to issue binding orders requiring Members and Permit Holders to remedy deficiencies identified in practice reviews. Failure to comply could result in restriction, suspension, or cancellation of a licence or permit.