



## 2. Authority of Practice Review Committee Practice Standards, Guidelines, and Bulletins

*Improved Public Interest*

To protect the public, APEGA must have clear authority to develop appropriate standards and ensure that Members and Permit Holders comply with them. It is in the public interest that Members and Permit Holders know the standards of competence and practice expected and required of them in their professional practice.

### Background

- The Practice Review Board currently has implied authority to establish practice standards, guidelines and bulletins.
- For the purposes of this discussion, a *practice standard* means a document that establishes a standard of practice that Members and Permit Holders must comply with in their professional practice.
- A *practice guideline* means a document that provides guidance to aid Members and Permit Holders in their professional practice and may include recommended best practices.
- A *practice bulletin* means a document that addresses an issue related to the practice of the professions and remains in force until a practice standard on the issue has been developed or the bulletin has been repealed.

### Why is this important?

- To protect the public, Members and Permit Holders must be held to acceptable standards of competence and practice.
- The new Practice Review Committee (PRC) will have explicit responsibility to establish practice standards, guidelines and bulletins that can be enforced.

- Members and Permit Holders must know the standards of practice they are required to meet in their professional practice and must be held to these required standards.

#### Proposed legislative change

It is recommended the legislation be amended to explicitly clarify that:

- The Practice Review Committee (PRC) has the responsibility to develop APEGA practice standards, guidelines, and bulletins.
- The PRC has the authority to approve practice guidelines.
- Council has the authority to approve all APEGA practice standards, and bulletins.
- Failure to comply with practice standards and bulletins can result in the restriction, suspension, or cancellation of a licence or permit, and may also constitute unskilled practice and/or unprofessional conduct.

#### Effects of the proposed change

- Members and Permit Holders must comply with mandatory practice standards and bulletins approved by Council.
- APEGA will support the Members and Permit Holders in maintaining practice standards by developing guidelines to educate and inform them of the best practices along with any other needed support mechanisms.
- The process followed by the PRC in developing practice standards, guidelines, and bulletins will be established in Council policy and will include consulting with Members and Permit Holders during the development process.
- The practice standards, guidelines and bulletins let Members and Permit Holders know what is expected of them.
- This is consistent with what other self-regulating organizations are doing to maintain best practices in other professions.