



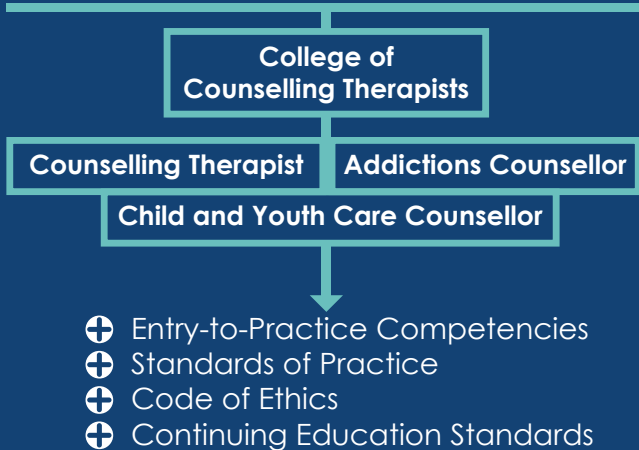
FACT-Alberta

FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF COUNSELLING THERAPISTS IN ALBERTA

Overview of changes

FACT-Alberta has proposed to the Government the establishment of a College of Counselling Therapists. This must be done through an amendment to the Health Professions Act (HPA). FACT-Alberta has been advised that the Government will move to the next phase of the process which includes stakeholder consultation. Here is some helpful information to bring you up to speed with the proposed changes.

What will regulation look like?



What is a college?

A College is the legal entity granted authority under provincial legislation to regulate the profession

Working Together



How will regulation work?

Counselling Therapist, Addictions Counsellor and Child and Youth Care Counsellor will become protected titles. The College of Counselling Therapists will provide oversight and ensure common standards of practice. Counselling Therapists, Addictions Counsellors and Child and Youth Care Counsellors must demonstrate the Entry-to-Practice Competencies for their profession and adhere to the standards of practice and code of ethics of the College.

Counselling therapists may also have certification in an area of specialty through a professional association. The role of the College and the professional counselling associations will differ, and membership in each will be the best practice for practitioners.

- ⊕ Restricted titles
- ⊕ Legal mandate to enforce standards of practice
- ⊕ Mandate that members have liability insurance
- ⊕ Mandate a continued education program
- ⊕ Voluntary standards of practice and codes of ethics (that relate to areas of specialty)
- ⊕ Provide cost effective liability insurance
- ⊕ Provide continued education opportunities
- ⊕ Advocate for the interest of practitioners
- ⊕ Oversee certifications for specialty competencies
- ⊕ Promote particular therapeutic approaches or special interests

Regulation of Counselling Therapy is in the best interest of all Albertans

Enter college by way of:

Expedited Grandparenting

(certified by an association within FACT-Alberta as meeting the Entry-to-Practice Competencies (EPCs) for Counselling therapist, Addictions Counsellor or Child and Youth Care Counsellor)

Grandparenting

(equivalency assessment process to ensure EPCs, which will take into account training, practice, and education of the practitioner, and in some instances may include examination)

Regular Route

(new graduates in the field or those from another jurisdiction - will include educational, training, & supervision requirements, as well as examination to demonstrate EPCs)

Public

- ⊕ Increase access to safe counselling
- ⊕ Regulation will increase access to insurance coverage for services by a Counselling Therapist
- ⊕ A counselling workforce that is accountable and abides by established and consistent standards of practice
- ⊕ More autonomy and choice in selecting a provider that is the right 'fit' for them
- ⊕ Can claim counselling therapy services as a medical expense on income tax
- ⊕ Better access to services in rural areas
- ⊕ Information sharing and coordination of care

Practitioners

- ⊕ Professional mobility and stability
- ⊕ Access to jobs that require employees to be regulated
- ⊕ More integrated in primary health care teams
- ⊕ Can apply for GST to be eliminated for counselling therapy after the profession is regulated in 5 provinces

Professional Associations of FACT-Alberta

- ⊕ Alberta Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)
- ⊕ Alberta Association for Spiritual Care (AASC)
- ⊕ Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada (ACCT)
- ⊕ Alberta Play Therapy Association (APTA)
- ⊕ Association of Registered Clinical Hypnotherapists (ARCH)
- ⊕ Canadian Art Therapy Association (CATA)
- ⊕ Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA)
- ⊕ Canadian Professional Counselling Association (CPCA)
- ⊕ Child and Youth Care Association of Alberta (CYCAA)
- ⊕ International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA)
- ⊕ The Music Therapy Association for Alberta (MTAA)
- ⊕ North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA)
- ⊕ Professional Association of Christian Counsellors and Psychotherapists (PACCP)