

Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board

P.O. Box 8275, Station A, St. John's, NL A1B 3N4

website: <http://www.nlpsychboard.ca>

2019-2020 Annual Report

This report covers the year May 2019 - June 2020. The Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board (NLPB) receives its authority and mandate through the Psychologists' Act 2005. The NLPB protects the public through registration, regulation, and education to promote access to safe, competent and ethical psychological services.

The NLPB consists of five elected Directors, two appointed Public Directors and one Registrar. The Directors for the 2019-2020 year are:

Mr. Charles Penwell (Chair)	Public Director
Dr. Jackie Hesson	R. Psych.
Dr. Krista Barney	R. Psych.
Dr. Sheila Garland	R. Psych.
Ms. Suanne Collins	R. Psych.
Dr. Emily Fawcett	R. Psych.
Ms. Barbara Bartlett	Public Director
John Harnett, R. Psych.	Registrar (non-voting)

The latter part of this year has been different, to say the least, as COVID-19 has spread around the world and impacted us here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Effective the last week in March, all private health clinics were forced to close and only reopening on June 8, with strict directives of how to operate.

Many psychologists adopted virtual session with clients, and meetings have also taken place virtually. Even this years' AGM is being held virtually.

We had planned to have this AGM, in person, in conjunction with APNL, so as to make it more accessible to all registrants and while we are coordinating the meeting with APNL, it is not as planned.

Your board has met monthly, except July 2019, to discuss registration, and other issues related to the profession of psychology. We hired Mary Devereaux, R. Psych., to develop policies important to the functioning of the board. Two members attended an ASPPB meeting in October 2019, and the registrar attended two ACPRO meetings. (The second was a virtual meeting)

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

In the past year, we have continued to pursue the possibility of registration at the doctoral level. The board realizes that any change in this area is likely to take significant time, as it will require a change in legislation. With changes to the M.Ed. program at Memorial University, this program no longer meets the necessary competencies needed for registration. Most jurisdictions in Canada now require a doctoral program for registration with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island now added. Nova Scotia has also made some attempts in this area.

To this end, the board has answered questions from government as to why we feel it appropriate to move to the doctoral level, with protections for current registrants, and we have forwarded a letter to them. We expect this process to take time.

APPLICATIONS:

Below is a record of applications received for the 2019 - 2020 year:

Applications:	Received	Approved	Denied
CFTA*	41	41	
Non CFTA	5	4	1
TOTAL	46	45	1

*Canadian Free Trade Agreement

EPPP

This year 6 provisionally registered psychologists attempted the EPPP and all were successful in their first attempts.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDITS:

The NLPB is continuing to implement the Audit component of the Quality Assurance program. Some audits have been completed, and others are scheduled to be carried out for 2020. There has been a delay due to the COVID-19 interruptions and more audits will be completed as conditions improve.

CE COMMITTEE:

Our Continuing Education Committee is continuing to thoroughly examine the CE forms submitted at the end of 2019. The process has been delayed this year due to COVID-19 and the inability to meet in person. The committee will continue their work in reviewing the CE forms. There was a change in requirements for the CE hours in 2019 with 10 hours being required from Category A. The goal of continuing education is to make it part of every registrants' professional practice, which helps in protecting the public.

COMPLAINTS AUTHORIZATION COMMITTEE:

The Complaints Authorization Committee dealt with one allegation this year. This allegation has taken considerable time as an investigator had to be hired by the board to examine the allegation. Upon completion of this work the CAC deliberated on the allegation and referred it to our lawyer to pursue. This complaint is presently being resolved..

ENHANCED EPPP:

The Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board is an early adopter of the new enhanced EPPP, (or EPPP2) which was supposed to start in January 2020. For several reasons this implementation date has now been postponed until November 2020. Current provisional registrants, who successfully complete the EPPP prior to implementation of the Enhanced EPPP will not have to complete the new process, but anyone completing it after the implementation of the Enhanced EPPP will have to complete the new EPPP.

POLICY & PROCEDURES:

Another initiative of the board over the past couple of years has been to develop and maintain quality policies and procedures. During 2018-2019, priority centered on the policy and procedures for investigating allegations so that the procedures are fair and comprehensive in dealing with these matters. In 2019-2020, the board oversaw the development of four more substantial policies and procedures. The following policies were developed this year with the help of our consultant, Ms. Mary Devereaux, R Psych

- Supervision Policy
- Registration Policy
- Quality Assurance Policy
- Board Powers and Governance

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

The NLPB has continued to maintain collegial relationships with provincial organizations and agencies. These include Memorial University of Newfoundland, Department of Education, NL English School Board (NLESD), Association of Psychology in Newfoundland and Labrador (APNL) and Newfoundland and Labrador Counsellors and Psychologists Association (NLCPA).

ACPRO

The NLPB also maintains professional relationships with other professional organizations in Canada and the US including the Association of Canadian Psychology Regulatory Organizations (ACPRO), the Canadian Psychological Association, and The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB).

The Registrar has attended the two semi-annual meetings of ACPRO. The last one was a virtual meeting. ACPRO is the Canadian organization that consists of all Registrars of provincial and territorial regulatory organizations for the practice of psychology. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss national perspectives and issues related to regulation and to share expertise, support common efforts to enforce standards in the practice of psychology, and to facilitate mobility of psychology practitioners within Canada..

ASPPB

The NLPB has participated in the fall meeting of ASPPB. The spring meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19:

October 2019. This meeting had, as its theme, “The Protecting the Public by Safeguarding Regulation”. The meeting addressed issues of public protection and the current threats to regulation in the various jurisdictions.

As a member of the ASPPB, the NLPB benefits from this experience as it provides a superb opportunity to obtain a better grasp of the depth and breadth of issues related to the regulation of our profession and contribute to these international discussions affecting the regulation of psychologists.

SUMMARY:

The NLPB would like to thank those psychologists who have offered their services to the Board by offering their time for sub-committees and the provision of Supervision, Disciplinary Panels, Audits, and Investigations. These services are imperative to the Board as without these services, it would not be able to fulfill the entire mandate.

The NLPB welcomes inquiries about these activities or any other issues related to the regulation of psychologists registered with the NLPB. Contact information is available at our website: www.nlpsychboard.ca

Submitted by:

C Penwell

Charles Penwell
Chair