

Update on Regulation of Naturopaths in Alberta

An overview of Schedule 14 of Alberta's *Health Professions Act*, which relates to the Naturopath Profession, is provided at pages 6-7 the Naturopath Discussion Paper. At the time Field Law prepared the Discussion Paper, Schedule 14 had not yet come into force. We advise that Schedule 14 of the *Health Professions Act* will come into force on August 1, 2012.

In addition, the *Naturopaths Profession Legislation* passed pursuant to s. 131 of the *Health Professions Act*, will also come into force on August 12, 2012.

Overview of Naturopaths Profession Regulation

Eligibility Requirements:

- 4 year program of study in naturopathic medicine approved by Council
- Successful completion of the registration examination approved by Council
- Successful completion of the jurisprudence examination approved by Council
- Meets one of the following requirements:
 - Has satisfied the requirements listed above within 2 years of applying
 - Has provided 1200 hours of professional services while registered as a member in good standing as a naturopath in a jurisdiction recognized by the College
 - Demonstrates currently competent to practice as naturopathic practitioner to satisfaction of Registrar

Good Character Requirement:

- Section 9 of the *Regulation* requires that Naturopaths provide the following evidence of good character and reputation by providing one or more of the following at the request of the Registrar:
 - Written references from colleagues
 - Written statement from applicant regarding current investigations or unprofessional conduct processes, or previous professional discipline
 - Results of current criminal record check

- Written statement as to whether applicant has ever pleaded guilty or been found guilty of a criminal offence in Canada, or offence of similar nature in another jurisdiction for which no pardon has been given
- Other relevant evidence requested by the Registrar

Protected Titles:

- Naturopathic doctor, and initials N.D. and R.N.D.
- Naturopathic practitioner
- Naturopath
- Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine
- Doctor or “Dr.” when used in connection with providing a health service within the practice of naturopathic medicine

Restricted Activities

As Alberta’s *HPA* adopts a “controlled acts” model, whereby regulated professionals may only perform the restricted activities set out in their governing regulation, s. 14 of the *Naturopaths Profession Regulation* sets out the list of restricted activities that Naturopaths may perform. As the NWT’s *HSSPA* will not adopt a controlled acts model, we have not reproduced the list of restricted activities that Naturopaths registered in Alberta may perform in this summary.

Continuing Competence

- Naturopaths must complete, on an annual basis, a form that contains a self-assessment, a learning plan, and a list of continuing competence activities undertaken, along with supporting documentation
- The *Regulation* recognizes the following continuing competence activities:
 - Attendance at courses or seminars related to naturopathic medicine that are designed to enhance the professional development of regulated members
 - Presentation of a continuing competence activity to a group of regulated members
 - Attendance at sessions sponsored or approved by the Council concerning functions of the College, including professional development, code of ethics, and standards of practice

- Providing mentoring or supervision to students of naturopathic medicine education programs approved by the Council
- Participation as a member of the Council or a committee established by the Council
- Presentation of a research paper or abstract at meeting approved by Council
- Publication of a research paper in a peer-refereed journal
- Self-directed study approved by the Council
- Other activities approved by the Council
- The *Regulation* empowers the Council to determine the number of continuing competence program credits required each year
- The Registrar or Competence Committee is required to periodically select individual members for review and evaluation of the member's continuing competence program