



The Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Consultants 2008/2009 Report

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Dale Broemeling, Registrar – Shauna Lavoie, Program Analyst

OFFICE HOURS – Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Since January 2008 it has been busy for the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Consultants. There has been turnover in Board membership, coupled with the retirement of Regina Ternus as Registrar. The new Registrar is Dale Broemeling, who also serves as the Registrar for the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board. Dale brings along a tremendous support infrastructure, including Shauna Lavoie, Program Analyst, who functions as the front-line contact for questions and concerns regarding the dispensing of hearing aids in BC. Shauna is the individual at the other end of the Board telephone: 250-952-1502.

The announcement on December 11, 2008 regarding the creation of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals culminated years of effort by Registrants, members of the Board, members of BCASLPA and HISSBC, and members of the College Working Group. Two recent members of the Board – Sandra Bichard and Louise Parton – have been appointed by the Minister of Health Services to the first Board of the College.

The Board will be working closely with the College Board and Registrar to ensure regulatory activities relating to hearing aid dispensing can be seamlessly transitioned on March 31, 2010. Board Registrants can anticipate that they will be renewing their hearing aid dispensing licences directly with the College for the 2010/2011 year.

Barbara Williams, Chair

BOARD MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Current Board Members

(Appointments to December 31, 2009)

Barbara Williams, Audiologist, Chair

Anna Lesko, Community Representative

Scott McDonald, Hearing Instrument Practitioner

Dr. Michael Legge, Otolaryngologist

Marke Hambley, Hearing Instrument Practitioner

Marilyn Dahl, Consumer Representative

Lesley Lee, Audiologist

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Complaints Committee Report

The Complaints Committee received a total of 14 complaints for the period January 2008 to December 2008. The distribution of complaints was as follows:

- 7 Advertising
- 3 Consumer
- 2 Policy
- 1 Business practice
- 1 Release of client information and records.

Education and Examining Committee Report

The Board licenced 28 new registrants between May and December 2008.

2009 Examinations

The 2009 examinations will take place as follows:

Written exams – March 6, May 1, September 11

Practical exams – To Be Announced

WHAT'S NEW?

Advertising and Promotion of Businesses

The Board has recently received complaints from registrants concerning advertisements by fellow licencees. The nature of these complaints was that the advertisements discredited the credentials of other registrants.

The Board's objective relating to its advertising policy is to provide protection of the hard of hearing consumer while maintaining an environment of fair competition. Registrants must conduct their promotional activities with the highest degree of professionalism and ethical considerations. As registrants, you are free to promote your personal skills and academic achievements but in doing so you must not refer to or make comparisons with other registrants in any negative manner. We specifically draw your attention to Sections 22 and 23 of the Hearing Aid Regulations.

Please contact the Board office should you have any questions regarding compliance.

Transition of Applications to the new College on April 1, 2010

As the implementation date for the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals approaches, there have been questions arising regarding what will happen to new applicants who are part way through the application process with the current Board at the time the new College takes effect.

Any applications in process with the Board on March 31, 2010 will be transferred to the College to handle. The Board will work with the College to ensure all applications are handled in a timely manner.

Remote Hearing Assistance Technology for Children

The Board was contacted in the Spring/Summer of 2008 regarding the fitting and dispensing of Remote Hearing Assistance Technology systems on school children. The Board has the mandate within the *Hearing Aid Act* to protect the public by ensuring that individuals fitting and

dispensing such systems have demonstrated competency to practise, and that appropriate protocols for fitting, validation and verification are followed. Remote Hearing Assistance Technology systems are classified as hearing aids under the *Hearing Aid Act*. The Board is collaborating with the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Resource Program – Auditory Outreach – to clarify scopes of practice and required professional competencies, and to develop/identify protocols for verification and validation.

For more information please contact the Board office.

Labour Mobility with Alberta

The Board is working collaboratively with the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners in Alberta to facilitate a smooth implementation of the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) on April 1, 2009.

As of April 1, 2009 complete reciprocity of training and licensure will be permitted across the two provinces. In other words, anyone who is registered in BC will be eligible to become registered in Alberta if they wish. Any new applicant with approved training completed in BC will be accepted as a new applicant in Alberta. Both cases would require completion of registration documentation and the payment of assigned fees. Watch for details on TILMA on the BHADC website.

DATE TO REMEMBER

Completed Licence Renewal packages must be received in the Board office no later than March 1, 2009

(All licences expire March 31, 2009)

Licence Renewal packages must include:

- completed and signed 2009/2010 Licence Renewal Form;
- proof of calibration for each audiometer used in your practice;
- proof of completion of at least 10 Continuing Education Credits; and
- licence renewal fee (please make cheque payable to the Minister of Finance).

Active Licence fee = \$400.00

or Inactive Licence fee = \$150.00

Late licence renewals received after March 1, 2009 will be charged twice the renewal fee.

\$800.00 for an active licence

\$300.00 for an inactive licence.