



Amalgamation Update

June 12, 2024

The amalgamation of the College of Dietitians of BC, College of Occupational Therapists of BC, College of Optometrists of BC, College of Opticians of BC, College of Physical Therapists of BC, College of Psychologists of BC, and College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC to form the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC (CHCPBC) will occur on June 28, 2024.

This update provides you with important details about the amalgamation, including how it may impact you as a registrant.

What's changing, what's staying the same

In a previous amalgamation update, we shared a graphic that provides visuals of **what is changing and what is staying the same** for registrants. We encourage you to review it again to help you understand how this amalgamation will and won't impact you.

Your **REGISTRATION**

If you are registered with your current college, your registration will carry over to the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC. **You do not need to re-register with the new college on June 28.**

- If you have an active registration in good standing, your registration WILL NOT expire on June 28, 2024, and your renewal date will remain the same.
- The first time you register with the new college will be on your existing renewal date.

For occupational therapists: Your registration period will be active at the time of amalgamation (June 28) and therefore the College of Occupational Therapists of BC's registration renewal requirements remain in place.



The Public Register

A single public register has been created for all health professionals regulated by the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC. This public register will be active on the [new college's website](#) on June 28, 2024.

The information in this public register about each health professional will be the same as it is today. You may see some additional fields, but they will remain blank if that information is not currently displayed today for your record in the register.

Psychologists currently regulated by the College of Psychologists of BC can opt in to share their addresses today, and only those that have opted in will have their addresses shared in the public register as of June 28, 2024.

BOARD appointments

The Minister of Health has appointed the following people as members of the first Board of the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC (CHCPBC):

Public members

- Nathan Reginald Doidge
- Joyce Wynnifred Kenoras
- Sarah Ann Lalonde
- John David Meneghello
- Mary Elizabeth O'Callaghan
- Allan Paul Seckel
(designated Board Chair)

Registrant members

- Jennifer Ann Agnew
(physical therapist)
- Dr. Russell Ebata
(doctor of optometry)
- Jamie Lee Hack
(speech-language pathologist)
- Sue Randhawa
(optician)
- Deborah Jean Ruggiero
(occupational therapist)
- Oliver Yergeau
(dietitian)

Profession-specific Board members

The Board for the new college includes six health profession members and six public members. As nine professions will be regulated by CHCPBC, not every profession has a member with a seat on the Board. Professions that do not have a seat on the first Board are: audiologists, hearing instrument practitioners and psychologists. However, the mandate of Board members of regulatory health colleges is not to represent the interests of health professionals: that is the role of professional associations. Instead, Board members of regulatory health colleges have a fiduciary duty to the college and the public.



Maintaining a deep, profession-specific understanding and capacity within the overall governance of the new college remains vital. For this reason, the new college’s [governance framework](#) also ensures profession-specific capacity at the Committee and staff levels.

- Each regulatory Committee (Registration, Quality Assurance, Inquiry, and Discipline) will be made up of a number of members from each profession, as well as members of the public. Small groups of Committee members will be selected from this pool of members to form “panels” that will undertake specific Committee work. If the work or decision relates to a registrant/applicant or to a profession-specific matter, then at least one panel member will be from the same profession.
- The Board will also be able to rely on the new Professional Practice and Standards Advisory Committee to inform profession-specific decisions.
- With the new college being a larger organization, consultation with the professions and the public is also expected to increase.



BRAND identity for the new college

A [brand identity](#) (logo, colour scheme, fonts, etc.) has been created for the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC, and is reflected in this update. It was developed with input from college employees, an Indigenous artist and knowledge keeper, and key partners.

Our brand is an excellent reflection of who we are and what we do, and one that will soon become instantly recognizable as CHCPBC. You can learn more about the brand, including the logo, colours, and fonts, in our [Branding Update](#).



Follow us on SOCIAL MEDIA

The following social media accounts have also been created for the new college:



LinkedIn



Facebook



Instagram



X (formerly Twitter)



YouTube

We will start sharing content through these social media channels this week and encourage you to **follow us** on any you are active on. Click on the images above to go to each channel.

NOTE: We will not be able to respond to questions via social media channels until some time after amalgamation occurs.



Reminder: **DRAFT BYLAWS** for the new college

Draft bylaws for the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC are available for you to review and **provide feedback on until June 14, at 4:30pm.**

These draft bylaws are based on the bylaws of the existing seven colleges and do not propose changes to professional requirements. The draft bylaws do not include changes to regulated health professionals' scope of practice, registration, fees, practice standards, nor quality assurance requirements.

A final set of bylaws will be approved by the new Board of the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC and filed with the Ministry of Health so that they come into force on June 28, 2024.

For the most up-to-date version of the bylaws and information about how you can submit feedback, please visit <https://c7amalgamation.com/bylaws/>

Common **QUESTIONS** about amalgamation

- **Will I get a physical certificate of registration from the new College?**
No, the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC will not provide any physical certificates of registration upon renewal or initial registration. If your current College provides digital certificates, that process will continue.
- **If I am registered with two of the colleges that are amalgamating with each other, will I need to pay two fees, complete two renewal processes?**
Yes, it is likely that in at least the short term you will be required to pay two fees and complete two renewal forms for each profession, much like you currently do while holding registration with two separate colleges.
- **If I am registered with two of the colleges that are amalgamating with each other, will I need to complete quality assurance requirements for both professions?**
Yes, you will be required to complete quality assurance requirements for both professions.
- **Do I need to update my practice liability insurance or protection due to the amalgamation?**
No, the requirements for registrant liability insurance or protection remain unchanged.
- **Will reinstatement requirements change after amalgamation?**
Reinstatement requirements of your current college will be the same on June 28 and are expected to remain in place in 2024. As a reminder, registration requirements are prescribed in bylaws and determined by the Board. A former registrant who wants to reinstate must comply with the requirements set by the College at the time they want to reinstate.



- **Will continuing competence program requirements and cycle dates change after amalgamation?**

Continuing competence program requirements and cycle dates of your current college will be the same on June 28 and are expected to remain in place in 2024.

Once the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC has conducted a fulsome review of all programs, it will be able to make decisions about program requirements in the future.

The introduction of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* may also impact requirements once it is enacted at some point after amalgamation. As a reminder, professional requirements such as continuing competency are prescribed in bylaws and determined by the Board.

Answers to other questions are available in the FAQ section on the [registrant webpage of the temporary amalgamation website](#).

More questions?

If you have a question not answered in the [general FAQs](#) or [registrant FAQs](#) on the amalgamation website, please submit your question through the [Contact us form](#) on the amalgamation website. Questions submitted anonymously will inform future Q&As.

MORE INFORMATION about the amalgamation

Why are we amalgamating? This amalgamation is part of the Ministry of Health’s multi-year initiative to [modernize BC’s health profession regulatory framework](#).

CEO appointed: Dianne Millette, currently Registrar and CEO of the College of Physical Therapists of BC, has been appointed CEO of the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC and will assume this role full-time on June 28, 2024.

Video: A two-minute video explains why the colleges are amalgamating, its benefits, and what it means for regulated health professionals, patients and clients, and the public. You can watch the video by clicking on the image below or copying the following link into your browser: <https://vimeo.com/923099633>





Website: A temporary website (www.c7amalgamation.com) provides information about the amalgamation of the four colleges. The website features a [news section](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about amalgamation.

Future communication: key contacts, contact information and new website

Once the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC is formed on June 28, 2024, we will share additional information with you, including key contacts (phone numbers and email addresses). The new college website is currently being developed and we expect it will be live on June 28: <https://chcpbc.org>