



College of Audiologists and
Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
Ordre des audiologistes et
des orthophonistes de l'Ontario

January 22, 2015

Mr. John Amodeo
Director
Health System Labour Relations and Regulatory Policy Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
12th Floor
56 Wellesley St W
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

TRANSMITTED BY EMAIL TO: John.Amodeo@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Amodeo,

RE: CASLPO Patient Relations Program

We are responding herein to the Minister's letter of December 17, 2014 concerning College patient relations program measures for "preventing and dealing with the sexual abuse of patients". In this connection, we very much welcome and applaud the Premier's announcement at the end of last year concerning governmental initiatives to raise awareness within the province of sexual violence and harassment, measures to combat it, and improved support for victims. As a College, we can also reaffirm our very strong commitment to the Province's zero tolerance approach to sexual abuse of patients by regulated health professionals.

CASLPO's Patient Relations Committee is responsible for the College's interaction with the general public and professional members on matters of public awareness, including oversight of the [Sexual Abuse Prevention Program](#) and the [Position Statement on Professional Relationships and Boundaries](#).

Early in 2014, after the Committee reviewed both documents over the period of a year, the College Council approved recommendations from the Committee for improvements and

enhancements in both documents. We have attached these for your convenience and they can be found on our website at <http://www.caslpo.com/public-protection/professional-relations-and-boundaries>

All members of the College and the public have access to the documents and members were specifically directed by internal communication to review the new documents.

As part of the College's Practice Advice service which is utilized by both professionals and members of the public, our College advisors use both documents to guide and inform those seeking advice with respect to boundary issues.

In September 2014, all College staff, as part of the implementation of our revised and improved Sexual Abuse Prevention Program were given intensive training, using an external resource, in the handling of complaints and reports of sexual abuse. All staff were given this training, both to raise awareness of sexual abuse issues and because potentially any staff member could be the first point of contact for someone interacting with the College with a concern regarding sexual abuse.

In compliance with Section 85.7 of the Health Professions Procedural Code of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the College maintains a program to "provide funding for therapy and counselling for persons, who, while patients, were sexually abused by members." A \$10,000 reserve fund has been established by the College Council to support this activity.

We believe that our College is fully prepared to ensure, as the Minister requests in his December 17, 2014 letter, "that individuals who bring forward complaints regarding allegations involving sexual abuse of a patient are treated sensitively and compassionately."

We take very seriously our mandate to deal sensitively and comprehensively with matters of education of professionals and members of the public concerning sexual abuse issues and the handling of complaints. We are fully prepared to participate in, and cooperate with, the Minister's Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Patients, and look forward to being of assistance to them.

We would be pleased to answer any questions, or receive any comments on this response to the Minister.

Yours Sincerely,



Scott Whyte
President



Brian O'Riordan
Registrar

cc: Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy
Council, College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
Mary Cook, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists
and Audiologists (OSLA)
Joanne Charlebois, Executive Director, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC)
Marshall Moleschi, President, Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario