



Ontario Association of
CHILD AND YOUTH CARE
Association Ontarienne des Techniques
D'ÉDUCATION SPÉCIALISÉE

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THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT REGULATION:

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

VS.

REGULATORY COLLEGE

Child and Youth Care Practitioners in Ontario are represented by a professional association (OACYC) which differs from membership in a regulatory college.

What is their mandate?

Professional Association: To advocate for professionals of a specific discipline

Regulatory College: To protect the public interest

Who do they work on behalf of?

Professional Association: All qualified professionals in a given field.

Regulatory College: The public who access services provided by professionals in a given field.

Are they granted authority by the government to carry out their mandate?

Professional Association: No they are not.

Regulatory College: Yes they are.

What activities do they perform?

Professional Association:

- Promoting a code of ethics and a professional sense of accountability
- Providing advocacy for professionals
- Holding membership conferences
- Providing resources for practitioners

- Building relationships with organizations
- Liaising with associations and government ministries
- Maintaining historical records
- Celebrating and recognizing achievement in the field
- Highlighting professional development opportunities that align with core competencies

Regulatory College:

- Ensuring standards and best practices are met by professionals, as per legislation
- Registering current members
- Conducting investigations into accusations of misconduct
- Discipling or removing those found guilty of misconduct
- Ensuring ongoing training and professional development occurs
- Controlling entry into practice (certification, minimum educational requirements or hours in the field)
- Maintaining a database of those found guilty of misconduct resulting in dismissal
- Providing a safety net for the public

What does their governance and staffing structure look like?

Professional Association:

- Volunteer Board of Directors
- Volunteer Committee Members (members of a field)
- Paid Office Administrator(s)
- Paid Bookkeeper(s)
- Paid Auditor

Regulatory College:

- Volunteer Board of Directors (equal parts members of the public and professionals from the field)
- Paid Operational Staff (who oversee matters of registration, training and development, misconduct, finance, etc.)
- Paid Office Administrators

How are funds gathered?

Professional Association: Through voluntary annual membership where fees are paid by those practicing in the field.

Regulatory College: Through mandatory annual membership where fees are paid by those practicing in the field.

What are some Canadian Examples?

Professional Association:

- [The Ontario Association of Child and YouthCare \(OACYC\)](#)
- [Council of Canadian Child and Youth CareAssociations \(CCCYCA\)](#)

Regulatory College:

- The pending College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta which will oversee the newly regulated “Child and Youth Counsellors” in Alberta
- [The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers](#)
- [College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario](#)