

**HPRAC**

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS REGULATORY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**April 1, 2001 – March 31, 2004**

**Message from  
the Chair**

*The Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council is an independent body which provides advice to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on matters relating to the regulation of health professionals in Ontario. It is empowered by the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, and since its inception, has been known to provide concise, well-documented and objective advice to the Minister. It has also developed over the years an inclusive consultative process that is a model for advisory agencies.*

*I was asked to Chair the Council in June, 2004, and discovered that HPRAC had become inactive: Council did not have a quorum, staff had been reassigned to positions in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the offices were occupied by another organization. In the process of re-establishing HPRAC, and preparing it for the important work that lies ahead, I also learned that Annual Reports had not been filed for the past three fiscal years.*

*This Annual Report, which covers the period to the end of the fiscal year 2004, therefore is a multi-year summary of activities and financial operations of HPRAC. While I was not Chair or a member of the Council during that time, I believe it is important that HPRAC be accountable to the Minister of Health, and to the public, in presenting documentation of its activities for that period.*

*I am also impressed with the extent and depth of the work which HPRAC accomplished during those years, and am convinced it should be acknowledged in the public record. Members of Council, the staff at HPRAC, and those who assisted by participating in consultations, and making thoughtful and considered recommendations, should be congratulated for advancing the legislative objectives of public protection, quality care and accountability in the provision of professional health services in Ontario. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care should also be acknowledged for the administrative and resource support it provided to HPRAC so it could accomplish its mandate.*

*Barbara Sullivan  
Chair*

**Mandate**

*The Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council is a Schedule I Agency which has a statutory duty to advise the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on the regulation of health professions, which includes advice on: whether unregulated health professions should be regulated; whether regulated professions should no longer be regulated; proposals for amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act, a health profession Act or a regulation under any of those Acts and proposed regulations under any of those Acts; matters concerning the quality assurance programs undertaken by Colleges; and any matter the Minister refers to the Advisory Council relating to the regulation of the health professions. The Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council also has the duty to monitor each College's patient relations program and to advise the Minister about its effectiveness.*

**Operating Principles**

**Independence** - *HPRAC's process is open and at arms-length from the Minister. In anticipation of a pending referral from the Minister, HPRAC may discuss with the Minister's representatives the parameters of the referral in order to ensure optimal clarity and time lines. Once a referral is made, however, HPRAC does not discuss it with the Minister, his or her staff or officials from the Ministry.*

**Inclusive** - *HPRAC reviews are designed to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide information and views about the matter under consideration. HPRAC works with the people requesting a change in legislation and those most affected by any decision. Input from the public is sought through use of newspaper ads, public meetings, media information and the use of HPRAC's website.*

**Principled** - *HPRAC reviews and program evaluations are focussed on optimal achievement of the RHPA legislative objectives of public protection, quality care and accountability in keeping with the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, flexibility and fairness.*

**Council  
Members**

***Council members who served during the fiscal years 2001-2004 include:***

***Rob Alder, (September 1997 - January 2004) Chair, has a Ph.D. in epidemiology. Until 1997, he was the Epidemiologist at the Middlesex-London Public Health Unit with a faculty appointment at the University of Western Ontario. He is currently an elected municipal councilor in the City of London, Ontario. He is also a member of the Thames Valley District Health Council and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Middlesex-London Public Health Unit.***

***Robert Morton, (October 1997 - October 2003) Vice-Chair, is a graduate of the University of Guelph and the University of Western Ontario. Since 1975 he has worked in a variety of positions within the Ontario health care system. Mr. Morton is the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Care Access Centre Simcoe County.***

***Stephen Birch, (March 1998 - March 2004) has a Ph.D. in Health Economics and is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University, Hamilton. His main research interests concern methods for the allocation of health care resources among populations and methods for the evaluation of the use of resources within the context of heterogeneous populations.***

***Barry Brown, (October 1998 - present) has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Toronto, where he was an Associate Professor of Philosophy (St. Michael's College) and a member of the Joint Centre for bioethics until he recently retired. His specialization is in bioethics with an interest in research ethics, mental health and illness, end of life issues, and genetics and reproduction.***

***Joyce Feinberg, (March 1998 - March 2002) has a Ph.D. in chemistry and is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Consumers Council of Canada. She represents consumer interests on the Board of Directors of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Technical Standards and***

*Safety Authority.*

**David Surplis**, (February 1998 - February 2004) is the President of the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, a federation of fifty organizations representing 10,000 companies. He has a Ph.D. and taught political science at the universities of Toronto and Guelph before becoming Director of Research for the Ontario government caucus. He presently serves on the Executive Council of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

**Joyce Timpson**, (March 1998 - March 2004) has a doctorate in social work from Wilfrid Laurier University, and a Master of Public Administration from Queens University. She is currently a private consultant with social, health and mental health services. She was a child welfare researcher and writer for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and has numerous publications pertaining to mental health and child welfare in the North.

**Julia J. Robinson-Brown** (2002 - 2004) is an ergonomist who works as a Consultant with Counter Assessments, Vocan Health Assessors and Riverfront Medical Evaluations. From February to October 1999, Ms. Robinson-Brown was Clinical Director with Performance Orthotics where she was responsible for operating two orthotic clinics. Prior to 1999, she worked as a Therapist with Austin Northwest Rehab. Ms. Robinson-Brown has a B.A. (Honours) in Kinesiology and is certified by the Ontario Kinesiology Association.

**Staff**

*Executive Co-ordinator (to 2002) Mary Lou Gignac*  
*Policy Analysts: Sheila Mawji and Deanne Montesano*  
*Administrative Staff: Barb Thompson*  
*Legal Advisor: Douglas Alderson*

**Highlights Of**      **Performance Reporting**  
**2001-2004**

*HPRAC has an ongoing statutory duty to monitor each College's patient relations program and to advise the Minister about its effectiveness. In keeping with this responsibility, HPRAC undertook the following: a proposed business plan with a focus on performance monitoring, extensive discussions with staff of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and submission of an options paper based on those discussions for approval by the Ministry.*

**Public Enquiry Tracking**

*Although HPRAC's mandate is to provide advice to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, HPRAC receives many enquiries from health professionals and members of the public about various matters relating to regulation of health professions. In response to an identified need for comprehensive information on Colleges' policies on delegation of authorized acts, HPRAC gathered input from Colleges in 2003 on their delegation policies. The new Council will be tracking telephone and e-mail enquiries it receives to identify the range of information needs and will offer suggestions to the Ministry for implementing appropriate response mechanisms to ensure timely and accurate provision of information to the public.*

**Criteria Review**

*In 2003, HPRAC undertook a substantive review of the criteria used to provide advice to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care regarding regulation, de-regulation and changing scopes of practice for the health professions. Given that it has been 10 years since the passing of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) and more than 15 years since the Health Professions Legislative Review (HPLR), it was an opportune time to review, refresh and update these criteria.*

*As part of the research for the criteria review, HPRAC staff and legal counsel conducted a jurisdictional review and comparative analysis of how regulation, de-regulation and changes in scopes of practice are handled in other Canadian provinces, selected U.S. states and Great Britain.*

*Stakeholders were invited to participate in the criteria review by responding to a discussion paper developed by HPRAC in the summer of 2003 and posted on its website. Responses were received from regulatory Colleges, professional associations, educational institutions and members of the public.*

*Based on the jurisdictional review and feedback received from the consultation, final policy documents were developed in early 2004 and submitted to the Ministry, at its request.*

### ***2003 CLEAR Conference***

*As part of the consultation process for the Criteria Review, HPRAC participated in the 2003 CLEAR Conference - an annual event held by the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation. HPRAC coordinated an information session entitled "**Regulating, De-Regulating and Changing Scopes of Practice in the Health Professions - Is It a Question of Why or Why Not?**". The HPRAC session was well attended and received favorable evaluations from conference participants. It was an exciting opportunity to share HPRAC's deliberations on these important issues and to invite input from the international regulatory community.*

### ***Consultation Principles***

***During 2003, HPRAC developed the following guiding principles for conducting public consultations:***

*Under the RHPA, HPRAC is given a broad mandate to "conduct its proceedings in the manner it considers appropriate". HPRAC is committed to conducting its proceedings in such a manner that allows for the best advice to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, based upon evidence that is available on the public record. HPRAC is guided by the following principles: Fairness; Transparency; Efficiency; and Evidence-based decision-making.*

*The terms of each individual referral from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care are ultimately determinative of the need for, and type of, consultation necessary in order to establish the public record. Examples of public consultation that HPRAC might use include: workshops, discussion papers, focus groups, public hearings, public meetings, call for briefs/submissions and public opinion surveys.*

*When the need arises to conduct public consultations as part of its review of the public record, HPRAC is guided by the following principles in conducting such a review:*

- *The nature of the referral from the Minister and its priority*
- *The scope of the issues raised in the Minister's referral*
- *The range of stakeholders involved*
- *The resources available for consultation*
- *The objective of consultation (i.e. inform, gather information, test options, identify new options)*
- *Any statutory requirements outlined in the RHPA*

#### ***HPRAC's Move***

*With the closing of the offices at 2195 Yonge Street in June of 2002 HPRAC staff undertook the task of moving the office to 55 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 806, where it is now located.*

#### ***HPRAC Website***

*In the fall of 2002 the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) with the help of external counsel undertook to update HPRAC's Website. By end of the 2002 the revised site was up and running.*

**Financial Statements**  
**For Fiscal Years 2001-2004**

	<i>Fiscal year</i>	<i>Fiscal year</i>	<i>Fiscal year</i>
	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>
	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
<i>Revenue from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care</i>	<i>527,354</i>	<i>448,127</i>	<i>316,832</i>
<i>Total income</i>	<b><i>527,354</i></b>	<b><i>448,127</i></b>	<b><i>316,832</i></b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
<i>Salaries</i>	<i>204,900</i>	<i>143,000</i>	<i>189,900</i>
<i>Benefits</i>	<i>97,100</i>	<i>25,800</i>	<i>20,300</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>23,534</i>	<i>22,990</i>	<i>10,102</i>
<i>Professional Services</i>	<i>69,604</i>	<i>138,001</i>	<i>57,284</i>
<i>Office Supplies and Equipment</i>	<i>20,254</i>	<i>27,790</i>	<i>18,056</i>
<i>Equipment and Office Rent*</i>	<i>55,461</i>	<i>74,892</i>	<i>672</i>
<i>Services</i>	<i>5,845</i>	<i>7,434</i>	<i>6,901</i>
<i>Communications and Publications</i>	<i>50,656</i>	<i>8,220</i>	<i>13,617</i>
<i>Total expenses</i>	<b><i>527,354</i></b>	<b><i>448,127</i></b>	<b><i>316,832</i></b>

*Note to Statement:*

*\*Equipment and office rental amounts reflect charges for hardware rentals. In addition, for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, the amounts reflect Ministry of Health and Long Term Care financial adjustments for office accommodation*