



October 3, 2017

Brenda Everall
38 County Road 1
Picton ON
K0K 2T0

Dear Ms. Everall:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 13, 2017, which I received by email on September 12, 2017.

The College has provided information with respect to your concerns on several previous occasions.

With over 19,600 members, the College is the regulatory body for social workers and social service workers in Ontario. The College's mandate is to protect the public interest. It fulfills this mandate by:

- Setting entry-to-practice requirements to ensure that only those with specialized educational qualifications are eligible for registration.
- Setting, maintaining and ensuring that all members follow the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
- Requiring members to engage in ongoing learning through the Continuing Competence Program (CCP).
- Maintaining rigorous complaints and discipline processes.

As you know, the College is governed by the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* (the "Act"). The Act provides that no person except a member of the College shall use the title "social worker", "registered social worker" or an abbreviation of those titles to represent expressly or by implication that he or she is a social worker or registered social worker. The Act also provides that no person except a member of the College shall represent or hold out expressly or by implication that he or she is a social worker or registered social worker. The Act provides that a person who contravenes either of these two provisions is guilty of a provincial offence and sets out the fines upon conviction for a first and subsequent offence. The Act also provides that, if it appears to the College that a person does not comply with the Act, the College may apply to a judge of the Superior Court of Justice for an order directing the person to comply.

There are no provisions in the Act that require a person engaged in activities that social workers may perform to be registered with the College, unless the person is using one of the protected titles or holding himself or herself out to be a social worker or registered social worker.

The legal framework described above, sometimes known as a “title protection” regime, is the framework under which the College protects the public interest. The College has no authority to regulate employers. There is no authority for the College to require an organization to employ members of the College or not to employ persons who are not members of the College. However, the College encourages employers to require registration with the College of those employees who are eligible to be members of the College and whose duties are within the scope of practice of the profession of social work or social service work.

Further information can be found on the College’s website at www.ocswssw.org.

Sincerely,



Lise Betteridge, MSW, RSW
Registrar