



April 21, 2016

Brenda Everall
38 County Road 1
Picton ON
K0K 2T0

Dear Ms. Everall:

This letter is in response to your email of April 12, 2016, to which you attached a letter of the same date, as well as a letter to Anastasia Kokolakakis, Coordinator, Complaints and Discipline at the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (the "College") dated June 18, 2012.

I note that in your letter, you raise the following concerns:

1. Your belief that the College "refuses to acknowledge" previous correspondence in which you describe "unlawful social work practices";
2. Concerns about what you perceive to be the "unlawful practice of social work by persons employed by Children's Aid Societies"; and
3. Statements about your intention to "move forward in your career as a "Child Protection Consultant".

Concern #1:

As you note in your letter, Lisa Loiselle, Case Manager/Investigator in the Complaints and Discipline Department responded to your email of March 12, 2016 in which you requested follow up to letters that you had written to the College in June 2012 with respect to William Sweet, Melanie Regan and Lynn Renaud. She reminded you that the Director of Complaints and Discipline did in fact respond to your concerns in a letter dated June 12, 2012 to advise you that the matters of Mr. Sweet and Ms. Regan were now closed and the College could not reconsider the complaints or offer any further assistance to you in that regard. The College did not respond to follow up letters from you dated June 17, 2012 and June 18, 2012 in which you maintained that investigations into your complaints about Mr. Sweet and Ms. Regan should be revisited. This is because the College had already advised you that revisiting the complaints was not possible, as the matters were now closed and the College could not offer you further assistance.

The College opened an investigation in response to your June 18, 2012 complaint concerning Ms. Renaud. The Complaints Committee reviewed your complaint and issued a decision dated July 9, 2013.

I trust that this summary will demonstrate that in fact the College has noted your correspondence.

Concern #2:

With respect to your concerns about what you perceive to be the “unlawful practice of social work by persons employed by Children’s Aid Societies”, the following information may be helpful to you. 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.

Please note that the College is not in a position to comment on the information you provided regarding the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Concern #3:

With respect to your stated intention to “move forward with a new career as a Child Protection Consultant”, please note that this title is not, to the best of our knowledge, a protected one; the College would take no position on its use.

Thank you for your interest in these matters.

Sincerely,



Lise Betteridge, MSW, RSW
Registrar