

## **Responses to Questions about Language from Psychology Regulatory Organizations**

*“Would you be able to provide me a breakdown, by province and territory, of the language criteria in terms of licensing and examination of psychologists? In other words, where in Canada is it possible to pass the entry exam in French / in English / in either official language? Is the master of French / English / both official languages a condition of licensing? If so, is language training provided to current or future psychologists?”*

Summary note for two questions: In all Canadian provinces except Quebec, and in the Northwest Territories, there is a written licensing examination, the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP); it is available in both English and French. (Most jurisdictions also have an oral exam.) None of the regulatory organizations provides language training to current or future psychologists.

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

Neither our Act or Regulations make mention of this language issue or an opportunity for language training.

### **Nova Scotia**

In Nova Scotia, our current act states: Under the Psychologists Act, applicants for full Registration (15 (4) d) or for Candidate Registration (16 (3) d) are required to be able to speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency.

and here is a link to our policy:

[https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Language\\_Proficiency\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Language_Proficiency_Policy.pdf)

The new NS Regulated Health Professions Act, to which we will be "migrated to" next year, does not mention language requirements in the act, but could be a part of the new regulations, which are still be developed. We do not provide language training

### **Prince Edward Island**

There is no reference in our Act or Regulations to a language requirement. The written registration examination is available in both English and French. The oral examination is conducted in English but we will provide a French-language interpreter for the oral exam upon request. We do not provide language training.

### **New Brunswick**

For NB you must be able to pass entry exams and conduct your work in either French or English. CPNB does not provide language training, nor do we formally test language

proficiency (we consider that someone who was able to pass the EPPP and our oral exam in FR or EN, is sufficiently fluent in that language to practice).

### **Québec**

In Québec, the only legal requirement is French language, in order to be licensed as a professional, including psychologists. This is not handled by professional boards. It is handled by the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF). The OQLF issues a certificate once candidates have succeeded written and oral exams. Each board, including the board of Psychologists (Ordre des psychologues du Québec) is allowed to issue a temporary license for those who have not succeeded the French exam. Such a temporary license is valid for one year and can be renewed three times. This gives a total of four years for candidates to succeed the French exam. Professional boards are not responsible for training.

### **Ontario**

For Ontario, proficiency in either English or French is acceptable. This is governed by the regulated health professions act for all health professions. We do not have language training.

### **Saskatchewan**

Neither our current legislation, nor the proposed draft of the Regulated Health Professionals Act (RHPA) stipulates a language proficiency requirement. It is an area that our legal counsel and I are reviewing in our draft of proposed regulatory bylaw amendments. We do not provide language training.

### **Manitoba**

In Manitoba we can only assess and examine applicants in English. Fluency in English would be a requirement for registration because regulation can only occur in English. If a person practiced in French and we received a complaint in French, we would have to adapt. We have never received such a complaint to my knowledge.

There is no French language psychology training in Manitoba of the type that could lead to registration in Manitoba. Obviously, a psychologist could learn French if they chose, but this is not facilitated by PAM

### **Alberta**

We do require language proficiency in either English or French. If an individual has not received their training in either official language they must provide evidence of language proficiency.

**British Columbia**

In BC we require proficiency in English. We do not provide language training.

**Northwest Territories**

We do require language proficiency in either English or French. If an individual has not received their training in either official language they must provide evidence of language proficiency.