OSPG Guidance: Designating Professions – Initial Decision Criteria

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Issued by:

Kate Haines, Superintendent



Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance

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Version Control History

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1.0	2021-03-09	Initial version	Paul Craven, Superintendent
1.1	2023-07-28	Change in terminology	Kate Haines, Superintendent

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OSPG Guidance: Criteria for initial decision regarding designation under the PGA

Purpose:

This guidance document outlines the criteria that will be used by the superintendent in determining whether to consider and assess a professional body for designation under the PGA.

Context:

The *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) includes provisions in section 85 – 90 allowing for professional associations to apply to be designated under the PGA. The superintendent may also, in the absence of an application, assess a profession to determine whether it should be designated under the PGA. Section 85 requires the superintendent to make a decision upon receiving an application to either refuse the application without assessment or conduct an assessment. The following criteria may be used by the superintendent in determining whether to proceed with an assessment. Such criteria may also guide the assessment that is subsequently carried out and the superintendent's determination of whether it would be in the public interest to designate a profession under the PGA.

Criteria for Investigating:

A decision to proceed or not proceed with assessment could be made based on initial consideration of the profession against the criteria depicted in the diagram below, and/or based on the following strategic factors:

- Whether there is a more appropriate oversight framework for the profession elsewhere
- The degree of agreement and support amongst members of the profession to come under the PGA
- Whether there are identified negative impacts of establishing the profession under the PGA that are not outweighed by the benefits
- There is government direction regarding the profession

A decision of the superintendent and rationale will be provided to the organization and if applicable, the organization would have the ability to resubmit their application for designation.



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Discretion and

The majority of the proposed members deliver services in circumstances where they cannot be effectively supervised by others, and clients are unable to assess the quality of services provided

Body of Knowledge

There is a defined route of entry to the profession and a body of knowledge that could form the basis of practice standards

The practice of the profession results in possible/expected risks to clients and/or the public, the environment and/or property which cannot be addressed more efficiently and effectively through other means

Capacity

The members of the profession have the capacity to selfregulate, meaning they have or can be expected to develop the capacity to meet all of the PGA s. 22 responsibilities

Figure 1 Designation Criteria