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ONTABA Encouraged by Changes to Ontario Autism Program

Full public regulation of practitioners of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) will promote greater public safety for Ontario’s most vulnerable citizens.

The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis (ONTABA) commends Minster Coteau on the announced changes to the Ontario Autism Program and the pursuit of full regulation of the profession in order to protect the public.

ONTABA has recommended the need to have a single point of access for entry to services, clinical decision making based on individualized assessment, and protection of Ontario’s most vulnerable citizens by advocating for public regulation.

“We are excited to work with the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Service, Health, and Education to pursue the regulation of practitioners of applied behavior analysis (ABA) through the Health Professionals Regulatory Advisory Council process,” said Louis Busch, president of ONTABA. “Regulation would serve to protect not only vulnerable children with autism but individuals receiving behaviour analytic services across ages and service sectors.”

Behaviour analysts help individuals of all ages living with developmental disabilities, dual diagnoses, dementia, acquired brain injuries, autism spectrum disorders, and mental health issues by teaching skills that reduce the risk of harm, promote independence, and contribute to outcomes that are meaningful to each unique individual, their families and to society.

“A commitment to pursuing full public regulation of behaviour analysts, with the necessary interim protections, helps ensure that high-quality behavioural services will be provided by appropriately qualified behaviour analytic professionals,” continued Busch.

For more than 20 years, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis (ONTABA) has prioritized the protection of Ontario’s most vulnerable citizens by advocating for public regulation of the profession and for government investment and oversight of behaviour analytic services that are ethical, equitable, and evidence-based.
Quick Facts

-In April 2017, ONTABA’s Expert Task Force produced a comprehensive research report with recommendations for the Ontario Autism Program including recommendations on clinical oversight and regulation. Read the report here.

-Behavioural services account for an estimated $1 billion in government investments in Ontario.

-Behaviour analysts are regulated in approximately 30 jurisdictions in North America, but not in Ontario; although Ontario has one of the highest concentrations of practising behaviour analysts worldwide.

-In 2014, MCYS commissioned a comprehensive multi-year study which strongly recommended public protection through the public regulation of behaviour analysts. Read the report and its recommendations here.

-Research studies have demonstrated that behaviour analytic interventions can lead to significant long-term cost savings for families and funders (e.g. comprehensive behavioural interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders can save up to $1.6 million per individual over their lifespan).

-Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) consists of the application of behavioural principles to make meaningful differences in people’s lives. ABA can be applied to a wide range of human challenges and is not limited to any particular diagnoses or age group.

-Behaviour analysts work in a wide variety of settings such as schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, treatment and rehabilitation centres, and in family homes.

-Behaviour analysts help individuals build skills that promote safety and independence, including individuals living with developmental disabilities, dual diagnoses, autism spectrum disorders, dementia and the cognitive decline associated with aging, mental health issues, and acquired brain injuries.

-Behaviour analysts also help typically developing learners, support classroom management, and use organizational behaviour management to maximize the performance of human service organizations.

Contacts

president@ontaba.org