August 15th, 2019

Statement in Response to August 13th 2019 MCCSS Announcement on Regulation

ONTABA is encouraged by the MCCSS announcement on August 13th, 2019 [https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2019/08/supporting-quality-care-for-ontarians-with-autism.html?sfns=mo](https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2019/08/supporting-quality-care-for-ontarians-with-autism.html?sfns=mo) and that Ministers Smith and Elliott are committed to regulating behavioral professionals "like other health professionals." We fully support regulation of the practice of behaviour analysis. We agree that regulation would provide the public with needed protection by requiring practitioners to consistently follow the ethical and professional standards set out in the field, and would provide clients and families a way to report concerns about their service providers.

The practice of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is regulated in many jurisdictions in the United States (see list here: APBA). Further, Ontario is the jurisdiction with the highest concentration of behaviour analysts in Canada. Given the important implications that regulation involves, it is critical that our province moves quickly on this issue.

ONTABA has advocated that the government regulate the practice of ABA for many years and several large scale consultations were already completed on the need for regulation by the SEG in 2014 and the risk of harm of the unregulated practice of ABA by HPRAC in 2019 ([Volume 1](https://example.com) and [Volume 2](https://example.com)). Our key message has always been autonomous (or self) regulation which includes title protection and scope of practice, and to regulate the practice of behaviour analysis across sectors. Our membership is comprised of highly skilled practitioners, educators, and researchers, and those who practice with various populations, across age groups, and in a variety of settings.

ONTABA and our members have a wide breadth of knowledge and expertise in the science of ABA and the practice of ABA in Ontario. As with any other regulated profession, we as a key stakeholder hope to be included in the upcoming consultation process. We also urge the ministries to include behaviour analysts who practice in various sectors and types of service models.

ONTABA

The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis (ONTABA) is the largest not-for-profit professional organization representing behaviour analysts in Canada. Our mission is to demonstrate leadership, knowledge, and innovation in education, training, and research for the ethical and effective application of behaviour analysis. ONTABA has been working for many years towards autonomous regulation of behaviour analysts to ensure public protection for recipients of behaviour analytic services. ONTABA is not a lobby group.