



College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta

By-Laws

Under the Authority of the
Health Professions Act
Section 132

Revised May 2022

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ARTICLE 1 – PREAMBLE

1.1 WHEREAS the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta is duly incorporated under the *Health Professions Act*, of the Province of Alberta

AND WHEREAS power is given to the Council of the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta by section 132 of the *Health Professions Act* to make or amend By-laws as necessary

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta enacts as follows.

ARTICLE 2 – DEFINING AND INTERPRETING THE BY-LAWS

2.1 Definitions

In these By-laws, the following words have these meanings:

- 2.1.1 “**Act**” means the *Health Professions Act* of the Province of Alberta, or its successor legislation;
- 2.1.2 “**By-laws**” means the By-laws of the College, as amended;
- 2.1.3 “**Code of Ethics**” means the professional Code of Ethics adopted by the College for its members, as amended;
- 2.1.4 “**College**” means the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta;
- 2.1.5 “**Council**” means the Council of the College as described in section 5 of the *Act*;
- 2.1.6 “**Councillor**” means any person elected or appointed to the Council;
- 2.1.7 “**Regulated Member**” means a person who is a registered member of the College under section 33(1)(a) of the *Act*;
- 2.1.8 “**Executive Director**” means the title and position of Executive Director for the College;
- 2.1.9 “**Practice Permit**” means a Practice Permit, as defined under the *Act*, for practice as a Regulated Member;
- 2.1.10 “**Registrar**” means the title and position of Registrar for the College as appointed by the Council pursuant to section 8 of the *Act*;
- 2.1.11 “**Registered Office**” means the Registered Office for the College as described in Article 7.1;
- 2.1.12 “**Regulations**” means the *Hearing Aid Practitioners Profession Regulation*; and
- 2.1.13 “**Standards of Practice**” means the professional Standards of Practice adopted by the College for its members, as amended.

2.2 Interpretation

The following rules of interpretation must be applied in interpreting these By-laws:

- 2.2.1 Words indicating the singular also include the plural, and vice-versa.
- 2.2.2 All references to gender are to be interpreted as any gender.
- 2.2.3 Reference in the By-laws to Council, an officer, person or a committee includes any delegate of the Council, officer, person or committee.
- 2.2.4 The By-laws must be interpreted broadly and generally, to allow for the reasonable operation of the College.

ARTICLE 3 – OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLEGE

- 3.1** The objectives of the College are to regulate the profession of Hearing Aid Practitioners in Alberta pursuant to the *Act* and Regulations; and to administer the affairs of the College consistent with its By-laws, Standards of Practice, Codes of Ethics, and Policies.

The specific responsibilities of the Colleges as outlined in the *Act* include:

- 3.1.1 Carrying out its activities and governing its regulated members in a manner that protects and serves the public interest;
- 3.1.2 Providing direction to and regulating the practice of Hearing Aid Practitioners;
- 3.1.3 Establishing, maintaining and enforcing standards for registration and standards of practice for the profession;
- 3.1.4 Establishing, maintaining and enforcing a Code of Ethics for the profession;
- 3.1.5 Carrying on the activities of the College and performing other duties and functions by the exercise of powers conferred by the *Act*; and
- 3.1.6 Reviewing and/or approving programs of study and education courses for the purposes of registration requirements.

ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Categories of Members

Membership is composed of Regulated Members and Non-Regulated Members, and the term “Member” shall refer to both.

4.2 Regulated Members

A Regulated Member is a person who has:

- 4.2.1 Met the registration requirements set out in the *Act* and Regulations;
- 4.2.2 Paid the applicable fees; and

- 4.2.3 Registered with the College as a Hearing Aid Practitioner, Registered Hearing Aid Practitioner or Student Intern Member.

4.3 Non-Regulated Members

A Non-Regulated Member shall be one who has:

- 4.3.1 Paid the applicable fees; and
- 4.3.2 Registered with the College as a:
 - (a) Non practicing Member

4.4 Titles, Abbreviations, or Initials

- 4.4.1 Only Regulated Members, who have completed all necessary requirements, may use the following designator titles, abbreviations or initials:

Use the title of *Hearing Aid Practitioner* “HAP” if he or she is a regulated member on the general or temporary register. This member has completed an approved program of study and has passed the CHAPA competency exams. This member may have a supervision condition on their practice permit.

Use the title of *Registered Hearing Aid Practitioner* “RHAP” if he or she is a regulated member on the general register. This member has completed an approved program of study, passed the CHAPA competency exams and has passed the certification exam. This member may have a supervision condition on their practice permit.

Use the title of *Hearing Aid Student Intern* “HASI” if he or she is a regulated member on the student intern register. This member has completed an approved program of study. This member will have a supervision condition on their practice permit.

- 4.4.2 Should a person cease for any reason to be a Regulated Member, the right to use such titles, abbreviations or initials shall cease.

4.5 Initial Application

- 4.5.1 The Council must appoint a Registrar pursuant to section 8 of the *Act*. The Registrar will consider applications for initial registration.
- 4.5.2 The Registrar may, at their sole discretion, decide to refer any application for registration to the Registration Committee for their determination if a Registration Committee has been established pursuant to section 9(1) of the *Act*.

- 4.5.3 The Registrar shall consider applications for Practice Permits.
- 4.5.4 The Registrar may request
- I. Proof of Canadian Citizenship or proof of being lawfully permitted to work in Canada
 - II. Evidence of English language proficiency
 - III. Proof of Professional Liability Insurance
 - IV. Evidence of compliance for continuing competence
 - V. Written references from professional colleagues who have knowledge of the applicant's character and reputation
 - VI. A statement by the applicant addressing any unprofessional conduct process or previous disciplinary action by another regulatory body in any profession
 - VII. A statement by the applicant addressing any previous applications for registration as a professional in another jurisdiction that has been rejected
 - VIII. A statement by the applicant addressing any convictions of a criminal offence
 - IX. Current evidence of fitness to practice
 - X. Competence established through a combination of education, experience, practice or other qualifications
 - XI. Any other relevant evidence as the registrar determines necessary

4.6 Applications for Membership Renewal

- 4.6.1. A completed renewal form with supporting documentation must be received by the College by February 1st of each year for a Practice Permit that will become effective April 1st of that year.
- 4.6.2 Should the College not receive a renewal application by February 1st of each year, the Regulated Member shall be subject to fines or suspension of their Practice permit set out in the *Act*, the By-laws or as may be determined by Council.
- 4.6.3 Upon receiving the application, the Registrar may request additional information as is relevant to the renewal application, such as
- a) Proof of Canadian Citizenship or proof of being lawfully permitted to work in Canada;
 - b) Evidence of English language proficiency;
 - c) Proof of Professional Liability Insurance;
 - d) Evidence of compliance for continuing competence;
 - e) Written references from professional colleagues who have knowledge of the applicant's character and reputation;
 - a. A statement by the applicant addressing any unprofessional conduct process or previous disciplinary action by another regulatory body in any profession;

- b. A statement by the applicant addressing any previous applications for registration as a professional in another jurisdiction that has been rejected;
- c. A statement by the applicant addressing any convictions of a criminal offence;
- d. Current evidence of fitness to practice;
- e. Competence established through a combination of education, experience, practice or other qualifications;
- f. Any other relevant evidence as the registrar determines necessary.

4.6.4 a) Valid proof of Professional Liability Insurance (Certificate of Insurance) will be requested by the Registrar:

- a) for new members
- b) at membership renewal
- c) at membership reinstatement after a leave
- d) when there is a change of employer
- e) as part of conducting Insurance Audits throughout the membership year

b) Professional Liability Insurance coverage should be in the amount of not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) or in the amount required by contract with third party vendors; Whichever is greater. Professionals may increase their coverage at their discretion. The Certificate of Insurance must contain:

- a. the name of the insured or who they are employed by
- b. the type of Insurance (PLI),
- c. the amount of coverage,
- d. effective date and the date of expiry

c) A Practice Permit will not be issued or may be revoked in the event proof of Professional Liability Insurance is not provided, expired or invalid. A letter confirming continuous coverage may be required from the member's insurance provider. Repeated lapses in coverage may result in suspension of practice permit, fines, and member responsibility for any associated costs for investigations or hearings for professional misconduct.

***A Practice Permit is considered void if PLI insurance has lapsed, AND/OR the member's PLI insurance is considered void if the member does not possess a valid practice permit. Both must be kept current.**

4.7 Reinstatement

4.7.1 Reinstatement Application

A Regulated Member whose registration or Practice Permit is cancelled under the *Act*, except if cancelled under Part 4 of the *Act*, may apply for their registration, Practice Permit, or both, to be reinstated by submitting to the Registrar:

- (a) application forms;
- (b) the application and membership fee determined by the Registrar;
- (c) appropriate verification of competency requirements as may be determined by the Registrar; and
- (d) any other information or documents as determined by the Registrar.

4.7.2 Reinstatement Decision

The Registrar shall consider any application for reinstatement and must:

- (a) approve the application;
- (b) defer approval of the application until the applicant has successfully completed any requirements prescribed by the Registrar;
- (c) refer the application to the Registration Committee;
- (d) refuse the application.

4.7.3 Approval, Refusal or Deferral

Once the Registrar approves, refuses or defers an application for reinstatement under Article 4.7.2, the Registrar must advise the applicant of the decision by email or post at the applicant's last known address and provide reasons for the decision.

4.8 Membership Year

4.8.1 Expiry Date

An annual permit for a Regulated Member expires at midnight March 31st of each year.

4.8.2 Term of Practice Permit

A Practice Permit is valid April 1 to March 31, unless otherwise indicated on the Practice Permit. Conditions shall be noted on the permit. A lapse of professional liability insurance will void the practice permit.

4.9 Membership Fees

The Council shall, establish:

- (a) the application fee payable by persons applying to be regulated members;
- (b) the annual membership renewal fee payable by regulated members; and
- (c) any other fees payable by members.

4.10 Rights and Privileges of Members

4.10.1 Privileges of Regulated Members

Regulated Members in good standing shall be entitled to all privileges and services of the College, including the right to:

- (a) titles, abbreviations and initials;
- (b) vote at meetings of the College; and
- (c) hold office.

4.10.2 Privileges of Non-Regulated Members

Non-regulated Members shall be entitled to all privileges and services of the College as defined by the Council, excluding the right to:

- (a) use titles, abbreviations and initials held by Regulated Members;
- (b) vote at meetings of the College; and
- (c) hold office.

4.10.3 Obligations of Non-Regulated Members

Non-Regulated members shall follow the rules of the College as if they were a Regulated Member, except as provided otherwise.

4.11 Members in Good Standing

A Member of the College shall be in good standing only if:

- 4.11.1 All application, Practice Permit, and membership fees payable by the Member have been received in full;
- 4.11.2 No fines, fees, costs or levies are owing to the College;
- 4.11.3 Proof of current Professional Liability Insurance has been provided to the College; and
- 4.11.4 The member has a valid Practice Permit and whose registration has not been suspended or cancelled pursuant to Part 4 of the *Act*.

4.12 Revoking Membership

- 4.12.1 The College may demand that a Member pay arrears. The demand must give at least 30 days to pay the arrears.
- 4.12.2 If all dues in arrears have not been paid by the specified date, the Council may have the Member's name removed from the College's membership register and their membership and Practice Permit may be cancelled.
- 4.12.3 Any Registered Member whose Practice Permit has been cancelled must return their Practice Permit to the College.

4.12.4 If a Member ceases to be a Member of the College, any rights and privileges of membership shall cease.

4.13 Cessation of Membership

4.13.1 If, for any reason (including death), a person ceases to be a Member of the College, the rights and privileges of the Member shall cease.

4.13.2 Ceasing to be a Member does not extinguish any debts of any kind owing to the College, and any such debts remain enforceable by the College.

4.13.3 A Regulated Member of the College may resign their membership as provided for in the *Act*. A Member may resign from the College by submitting:

- (a) a request for resignation in writing; and
- (b) return of the Member's Practice Permit.

4.13.4 A membership may be cancelled in accordance with the *Act* or By-laws.

4.13.5 The member will be removed from the website once the above documents have been received.

4.14 Responsibilities of Members

Every Member of the College shall abide by the *Act*, Regulations, By-laws, Standards of Practice, Policies and Code of Ethics.

4.15 Mandatory Registration

A person must apply for registration with CHAPA, if that person:

4.16.1 Meets the requirements for registration as a regulated Hearing Aid Practitioner; and

4.16.2 Provides, or intends to provide, professional hearing aid services in Alberta directly to the public;

ARTICLE 5 – GOVERNANCE

5.1 Council

5.1.1 Composition of Council

Membership of Council shall be comprised of:

- (a) A President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four (4) Councillors-at-large, all elected in accordance to Article 5.2 of the By-laws;
- (b) Sufficient Public Members to meet the requirements of current legislation appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as Councillors in accordance with the *Act*; and

- (c) Any ex-officio members appointed by Council.
- (d) An Individual who is an officer or senior employee of a professional association or a labor union that represents members of a regulated health profession is not eligible to be appointed or elected to any of the following positions:
 - (i) member of council;
 - (ii) member of the registration committee, competence committee or hearing tribunal;
 - (iii) Complaint's Director or the Complaints director's delegate;
 - (iv) Hearing's Director or the Hearing's Director's delegate;
 - (v) Registrar or the Registrar's delegate
 - (vi) President of a council or the president's delegate.

5.1.2 **Responsibility of Council**

Decisions of Council shall be made as follows:

- (a) Votes are decided:
 - (i) at a Council meeting, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting at a meeting.
- (b) no ex-officio Member of Council shall vote;
- (c) all Councillors except the President, shall each be entitled to one vote, regardless the number of positions and titles held; and
- (d) the President shall only vote in the event of a tie vote, in which case their vote is the deciding vote.

5.1.3 **Authority of Council**

Council is the governing body of the College, and is empowered to:

- (a) set policies, procedures, and directives for the guidance of Members, officers and officials of the College that conform to the *Act*, Regulations and By-laws;
- (b) appoint officials as set out in Article 5.7;
- (c) create standing, ad hoc and other special committees as may be necessary to assist the Council in carrying out its duties;
- (d) enter into agreements with other institutions and societies;
- (e) oversee all financial transactions and ensuring a written financial statement is provided to the membership;
- (f) deposit or invest operating monies in any of the following – a Canadian chartered bank, trust company, securities of government of Canada or the government of any province of Canada;

- (g) invest the funds of the College in such investments and securities as the Council may see fit subject to Article 9;
- (h) award bursaries and grants as determined by Council;
- (i) delegate authority and responsibility for implementation of College policy to the Executive Director and/or Registrar; and
- (j) such other and further powers as are necessary for the proper working of the College.

5.1.4 Authority to Assess and Collect Fees

- (a) Council is empowered to establish and collect fees, costs, levies or assessments for the following:
 - I. application fees
 - II. membership fees
 - III. late payment fees
 - IV. non-compliance fees
 - V. NSF and other applicable bank fees, and
 - VI. fees for reviews or appeals of any decisions under the *Act*.
- (b) Council may establish such other fees, costs, levies and assessments as it deems advisable for anything it considers necessary for the services provided by the College or by another organization to a Regulated Member or to any other person.
- (d) All Members will be informed of any changes to the Fee Schedule by e-mail at least 90 days in advance of the new rates going into effect.

5.2 Election to Council

- 5.2.1 The election of Councillors shall be held online in September of each year unless otherwise indicated, when one or more Councillors' terms of office expire, or when one or more positions are vacant.
- 5.2.2 Only Regulated Members possessing RHAP or HAP designation for a minimum of 2 years and in good standing are eligible for nomination.
- 5.2.3 The Executive Director or designate, no later than 30 days before the online election, shall forward to each Regulated Member in good standing a call for nominations listing the positions that are up for election, the rules listed for nominations under Articles 5.2.4 and 5.2.5, and the address to which nominations are to be returned.
- 5.2.4 The Council shall establish an Elections Committee of at least three (3) persons that is responsible for auditing the nominations and elections process. One (1) member

of the committee shall be one of the Public Members of the Council, while the others shall be Regulated Members in good standing.

- 5.2.5 Only Regulated Members in good standing may make a nomination. A Regulated Member may not nominate more than one person for a vacancy. Any nomination must specify what position the person is being nominated to fill.
- 5.2.6 To be valid, nomination submissions must:
- (a) state the name of the person being nominated;
 - (b) indicate the position to which he is being nominated;
 - (c) include the name and signature of the nominator; and
 - (d) be returned to the address set out in the notice by the date set out in the notice.
 - (E) An expression of interest (self- nomination) will be accepted.
- 5.2.7 Nominations or Expression of Interest will be accepted up to 5PM, 7 days prior to the polls opening. All voting will be completed using secure online voting via chapa.ca. Paper ballots and proxy forms will not be accepted. The polls will be open for three business days. Only eligible voters will be granted voting privileges.
- 5.2.8 Should only one (1) Regulated Member be nominated for a position, or only one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) for Councillors-at-large, such candidates shall be declared elected by acclamation.
- 5.2.9 A person may only run for one (1) position. Should a person be nominated to more than one position, the person must choose which position they run for. A person may also decline to run for any of the positions to which they have been nominated.
- 5.2.10 After it has been determined who is running for which position, elections shall be held.
- 5.2.11 Voting will take place online through the membership website, where each voting member has a unique log in access and can vote one time for each position that is up for election. The vote majority wins for each position. The results will be posted within 48 hours of the election conclusion.
- 5.2.12 An accidental or technical oversight, error or omission in the performance of any of the election provisions does not render an election void.

5.3 Term of Office

- 5.3.1 The term of office for members of council shall be three (3) years following the election and will commence immediately.

- 5.3.2 The Past-President may continue to be an ex-officio member of Council for a one-year period after completion of the term of President. Should this position become vacant, it is not filled according to Article 5.3.5
- 5.3.3 A Councillor may at any time resign by letter delivered to the President.
- 5.3.4 In the event of any vacancy on Council, the remaining Councillors may either choose to leave the position open or select a Regulated Member in good standing to fill the vacancy until the next election. If the vacancy is not that of Councillor-at-large, the replacement does not automatically fill that position but instead Council chooses which Councillor should fill the position, which they do until the next election.
- 5.3.5 With the permission of the majority of the rest of the Council, a Councillor may resign from a position other than that of Councillor-at-large without resigning from Council all together. In such a case, the Council shall choose a different Councillor to fill the now vacant position.
- 5.3.6 A Councillor may resign from a committee without resigning from the Council unless the Councillor is required to sit on the committee by virtue of holding a specific position on Council.
- 5.3.7 With the permission of Council, a Councillor may hold more than one position until the next election. Regardless of how many positions a Councillor may fill, they only have one vote. If one of the positions held is that of President, Article 5.1.2(d) applies to that vote.

5.4 Meetings of Council

- 5.4.1 Council may meet for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meeting and proceedings as required, subject always to the provisions of the *Act*, Regulations, and By-laws. In most circumstances, Council will meet a minimum of four times per year.
- 5.4.2 The President may call meetings of Council at any time deemed necessary or advisable.
- 5.4.3 Three (3) members of council may, by resolution in writing signed by them, require the President to convene a meeting of Council. The requisition shall state the object of the meeting so required. Should the President not cause a meeting to be held within 14 days of the requisition, the petitioners may themselves convene a meeting, by providing not less than 7 days' notice in writing to all Councillors.
- 5.4.4 The President shall chair any meetings of Council, or if the President is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding such meeting the Vice President will chair the meeting. If neither the President nor the Vice President is present within that time, the Councillors present shall choose one of their numbers to act as Chair for the meeting.

- 5.4.5 The Council or any committee may hold a meeting by means of telephone, video conference or other communication that permits all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other.
- 5.4.6 A quorum for a meeting of the Council exists when 6 Councillors are present, Officers must have majority.
- 5.4.7 Only members of Council have the right to attend Council meetings; however Council may invite other individuals to take part in the discussions on pertinent business at any meeting of the Council. The same applies to committee meetings.

5.5 Delegation and Officers

- 5.5.1 Subject to sections 19 and 20 of the *Act*:
 - (a) Council may, by resolution, delegate any powers and duties under the *Act* and these By-laws to one or more persons or committees.
 - (b) A person or committee to whom a power or duty is given under the *Act* or these By-laws may in writing delegate the power or duty to one or more persons or committees.
- 5.5.2 The Council may employ or appoint an Executive Director, who shall have charge and care of the day-to-day affairs of the College.
- 5.5.3 As soon as practical, a vacancy of any of these positions, the Council shall appoint a:
 - (a) Registrar;
 - (b) Complaints Director;
 - (c) Hearings Director; and
 - (d) Privacy Officer.

The same person may hold more than one of these positions.
- 5.5.4 Notwithstanding Article 5.7.3, the Complaints Director and Hearings Director may never be the same person, nor may any person be delegated any of the powers of both.

ARTICLE 6 – COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS

6.1 Registration Committee

- 6.1.1 Council may establish a Registration Committee consisting of no fewer than three (3) members, the majority of which must be Regulated Members.

- 6.1.2 Council shall appoint members to the Registration Committee for a term to be determined by Council.
- 6.1.3 Council shall designate a Member of the Registration Committee to act as Chair.
- 6.1.4 The Registration Committee shall address any issues with respect to registration or practice permits referred to the Committee by the Registrar.
- 6.1.5 The Registration Committee may set its own rules of procedures, subject to conditions laid out in the *Act*.
- 6.1.6 The Registrar may attend the meetings of the Registration Committee but will not be permitted to vote.
- 6.1.7 A decision of the Registration Committee shall be by a vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting.

6.2 Competence Committee

- 6.2.1 Council shall appoint no fewer than three (3) Regulated Members to the Competence Committee for a term to be determined by Council.
- 6.2.2 Council shall designate a member of the Competence Committee to act as Chair.
- 6.2.3 The Competence Committee will make recommendations to the Council on continuing competence requirements and the assessment of those requirements.
- 6.2.4 The Competence Committee may determine its own rules of procedure, subject to the *Standards of Practice*.
- 6.2.5 The Competence Committee may appoint one or more persons with technical expertise or other relevant knowledge to assist the Committee in carrying out its duties.
- 6.2.6 A decision of the Competence Committee shall be by a vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting.

6.3 Complaint Review Committee

- 6.3.1 Council must appoint members to a membership list consisting of no fewer than four (4) regulated members to be used for appointing members to both Complaint Review Committees and Hearing Tribunals.
- 6.3.2 The Hearings Director may establish a Complaint Review Committee consisting of two (2) or more members from the membership list and public members; public members must constitute 50% of the voting members of the Committee.
- 6.3.3 The Complaint Review Committee may review and ratify settlements under the Alternative Complaint process (section 60) and conduct reviews of dismissal of complaints (section 68).
- 6.3.4 The Hearings Director must designate a member of the Complaint Review Committee to act as a Chair of the Committee.

- 6.3.5 A quorum of the Complaint Review Committee is two (2) Regulated Members and 2 public members. (subject to section 12 of the Act).
- 6.3.6 The Complaint Review Committee may determine its own rules in respect the conduct of hearings.
- 6.3.7 A decision of the Complaint Review Committee shall be by a vote of a majority of the members present at a hearing or meeting.
- 6.3.8 Where a Complaint Review Committee has ratified the settlement of a complaint, the Registrar may publish information regarding the settlement pursuant to the direction of the Committee, but must not publish information regarding a complainant or third party.

6.4 Hearing Tribunals

- 6.4.1 The Hearings Director may establish a Hearing Tribunal consisting of two (2) or more members from the membership list and the minimum public members as required by the act (50%).
- 6.4.2 A Hearing Tribunal's powers and duties include holding hearings under the Act (section 17(1)).
- 6.4.3 The Hearings Director must designate a member of the Hearing Tribunal to act as Chair.
- 6.4.4 A quorum of the Hearing Tribunal is two (2) Regulated Members and the minimum public members as required by the act (50%).
- 6.4.5 A Hearing Tribunal may determine its own rules of procedure.
- 6.4.6 A decision of the Hearing Tribunal shall be by vote of a majority of the members present at a Hearing.
- 6.4.7 Subject to the *Standards of practice* and any direction by the Hearing Tribunal, the Complaints Director may publish or distribute any information with respect to the unprofessional conduct process and hearings in any manner he considers appropriate.

6.5 Other Committees

- 6.5.1 Council may designate other ad hoc committees from time to time, as deemed appropriate by Council.
- 6.5.2 Membership, terms of reference and the procedures to be followed by ad hoc committees shall be as determined by Council.

ARTICLE 7 – FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 Registered Office

The College will maintain a Registered Office within the province of Alberta.

7.2 Finance and Auditing

- 7.2.1. The fiscal year of the College ends on February 28/29th of each year.
- 7.2.2 There must be an audit of the books, accounts, and records of the College at least once each year.

7.3 Seal of the College

The Seal of College shall be a circle surrounded by the words “College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta”.

7.4 Cheques and Contracts of the College

- 7.4.1 The Council shall appoint three (3) signing officers.
- 7.4.2 Every cheque to be drawn from the monies of the College, or any contract to be signed by the College, must bear the signatures of two (2) signing officers.

7.5 College Records

- 7.5.1 Preparation and custody of minutes of the College, Council, committees and all other relevant records shall be the responsibility of the Secretary.
- 7.5.2 The College will implement and maintain safeguards to protect confidentiality and protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security, integrity, loss or unauthorized use, disclosure, modification or unauthorized access to general and members’ records.
- 7.5.3 College business records such as minutes, financial information, annual reports and communications with various stakeholders will be kept a minimum of 10 years
- 7.5.4 College member information such as registration applications and reviews, records of investigations and hearings, and copies of ratified settlements and admissions of unprofessional conduct will be kept for at least 10 years (*HPA(121)*).
- 7.5.5 When a Regulated Member leaves the College, their competency registration and data will be kept for a minimum of 10 years.
- 7.5.6 College and member’ records will be destroyed by secure and confidential means for both paper and electronic versions.
- 7.5.7 Procedures will be implemented and maintained to ensure that all electronic records and data are secure, and regularly backed up in a safe and accessible location.

7.6 Re-imbusement

Councillors, committee members, employees or members shall be reimbursed pursuant to College policies, established from time to time, for their reasonable expenses incurred while carrying out College duties.

7.7 Protection and Indemnity

7.7.1 Every Councillor, committee member or employee of the College shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the College from and against all costs, charges and expenses which such individual sustains or incurs in any action, suit, claim or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against them for, or in respect of any act, manner or thing done by her in the performance of the duties of their office, except where such action, matter or thing has been done or permitted to be done by them as the result of their own fraud, dishonest, gross negligence or bad faith.

7.7.2 No Councillor, committee member or employee of the College shall be liable for:

- (a) the acts, negligence or defaults of any other Council Member, committee Member or Employee of the College;
- (b) any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortious act of any person, firm or corporation dealing with the College; or
- (c) any other loss, damage or claim that may occur in the execution of the duties of their office unless same shall happen or occur by or through her own willful act, bad faith or gross negligence.

7.8 Filing and Submission of Reports

The Council shall, submit to the Minister an Annual report of its activities in accordance with Section 4 of the *Act* for Ministerial Approval by September 30th of each year.

ARTICLE 8 – AMENDING THE BY-LAWS

8.1 Council has the authority to amend the by-laws as necessary.

ARTICLE 9 – INVESTMENTS, DISTRIBUTING ASSETS AND DISSOLVING THE COLLEGE

- 9.1** The Council shall apply and cause to be applied the funds of College in any manner Council may decide in carrying out or promoting the objectives of the College.
- 9.2** Except in accordance with Article 7.6, no part of the income or assets of the College shall be payable to, or otherwise available for the personal benefit of any Councillor or Member.
- 9.3** In the event of dissolution or winding up of College, all its remaining assets after payment of its liabilities shall be used to promote health and education in the Province of Alberta or for such other charitable or educational purposes as Council shall deem appropriate

ARTICLE 10 – MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1** If there is a conflict between the By-laws and the *Act* or the Regulations, the *Act* or Regulations shall prevail.
- 10.2** In the event that any portion of the By-laws shall be found to be illegal, contrary to any Statute, contrary to public policy, or otherwise inoperative, the remainder of the By-laws shall remain in full force and effect, in such event the Council shall forthwith enact an appropriate replacement.