

Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)

What it is and why it matters.

The HPOA is replacing the Health Professions Act, the legislation that governs all health care providers. It will significantly change how the profession is regulated, impacting you directly and indirectly.

Doctors of BC sees value in modernizing legislation to:



Improve Indigenous Cultural Safety

Include Indigenous Cultural Safety and Indigenous-specific anti-racism provisions that align with Doctors of BC's commitments.



Address discrimination

New requirements for the College and licensees related to addressing discrimination and promoting anti-discrimination practices.



Increase efficiency for smaller professional Colleges

Amalgamate smaller health care profession colleges to improve their efficiency and capacity for oversight and public protection.

Doctors of BC has concerns with:



Lack of physician consultation

Doctors were not consulted on the HPOA despite its impact on the profession.



Elimination of elected College Board members

No members elected by physicians, instead all members will be appointed by government based on the recommendation of a newly created Superintendent's Office.



Loss of appeal rights

The elimination of the statutory right for physicians to appeal disciplinary decisions to the Supreme Court, raising significant concerns about basic principles of fairness.



Complaints investigation and discipline

Investigative and disciplinary bodies will be directly or indirectly appointed by government, creating concerns over fairness, political influence, and appointees' qualifications.



Disclosure of minor disciplinary actions

Must now be publicly disclosed, while information on dismissed or unpursued complaints is disclosed if requested – potentially causing undue harm to physicians' professional and personal reputation.

Learn more

Learn more about the HPOA, Doctors of BC's advocacy, collective feedback to the College, and what this means for you as a physician at doctorsofbc.ca/HPOA

**doctors
of bc**