

March 4, 2023

Statement regarding the requirement for CSEP-CEP credential to work in the British Columbia health care system.

On February 9th, the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology (CSEP) released a statement outlining a recent decision by the British Columbia Ministry of Health that has implications for kinesiologist's working within the provincial health care system in British Columbia (BC). Briefly summarized and as reported in a recent [CSEP news post](#), one of the Ministry of Health's recommendations was to:

"Hire Clinical Exercise Physiologists (CEPs), rather than kinesiologists, as CEPs have standardized education requirements, minimum standard competence, and required practical clinical hours to work in primary care, community care and clinical outpatient services."

On behalf of the Ontario Kinesiology Association (OKA), we provide the following position.

- 1) We sympathize with our British Columbia Association of Kinesiologists (BCAK) colleagues who, like the OKA, have continued to promote Kinesiology within both the private and public sectors. This is a considerable hurdle for BCAK to overcome, but not insurmountable. The OKA will work through the Canadian Kinesiology Alliance (CKA) and all of our provincial kinesiology associations partners to support BCAK in advocating for the re-inclusion of Kinesiologists into the provincial health system in BC.
- 2) In Ontario, unlike every other province in Canada (to-date), as Kinesiologists we are regulated health professionals. This is an important distinction to make and helps the OKA to protect the considerable gains we have made to increase the inclusion of kinesiologists within Ontario's health system. As a regulated health profession, the [College of Kinesiologists of Ontario](#) requires that we meet a minimum educational standard, but also that we demonstrate competency by passing an entry-to-practice exam. This additional examination helps to protect the public by verifying our core competencies as Kinesiologists, noting that our academic training can vary from program-to-program. As it turns out, an entry-to-practice requirement (or minimum standard competence) was a key point of concern raised by the BC Ministry of Health when making their decision. Since CSEP Clinical Exercise Physiologists (CEPs) are required to demonstrate academic requirements in addition to challenging the CSEP-CEP Theory Exam and Practical Exam, the BC Ministry of Health felt they could clearly verify that CSEP-CEPs had the competencies necessary for the clinical work required within their provincial health system.
- 3) The OKA continues to vigorously support the inclusion of Kinesiologists within the provincial health system in Ontario. We are also engaging in conversations with the College of Kinesiologist

of Ontario to ensure that our entry-to-practice and continuing education standards remain rigorous and clear. While some Registered Kinesiologists may choose to obtain additional credentials as they deem necessary, the OKA will continue to advocate and support that registration as a Kinesiologist is the foundational requirement necessary to provide exercise-related services in primary care, community care and clinical outpatient services in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Ontario Kinesiology Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fischer'.

Steven Fischer, R.Kin, PhD, CCPE
President