



# Update on the Professional Reliance Review

The BC government released the **final report** on June 28 and the College has issued **preliminary feedback**.

Subsequent to the report's release, the provincial government initiated seven (7) meetings between government and the regulators between July 9 and July 30 to consider challenges and concerns in implementing the recommendations proposed in the final report (Note: Participants in these meetings were required by the Province to sign a confidentiality agreement which restricts what can be communicated).

Notwithstanding the time and energy from all parties spent at these meetings, the College continues to have concerns about what government is considering from the report's broad reaching recommendations - most notably the establishment of an "Office of Professional Regulation and Oversight".

The College continues to articulate its support for improved reporting, transparency and accountability, however the report recommends that this Office, under a new piece of legislation, be delegated significant powers to "oversee professional legislation". The College is concerned about this because several of the proposed powers of this new Office could serve to undermine the principle of self-regulation, including:

1. Appealing decisions of the discipline and credentials (registration) committees;
2. Administering a merits-based process for appointments to professional councils and committees; and
3. Administering rosters of practitioners.

The College is also concerned about several omissions in the report, namely:

- There has been no analysis of the **financial implications** of establishing a new Office to either government, the regulator or to the individual professional,
- There is **no clear identification on what problems** the recommendations are addressing, and



# COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY

Professional Accountability

- While the report recognizes applied biology professionals, it does not recognize the inherent imbalance between having **Right to Title versus Right to Practice**.

The College of Applied Biology fully appreciates that it is a privilege to be a self-regulating profession. We remain committed to the principles of accountability, transparency, consistency, responsiveness and self-regulation. However, what has been presented by government to date continues to leave us with many outstanding questions and concerns.

We will continue to work hard to get answers and we will provide updates as the process unfolds. It is important that all College members pay attention to these significant reforms being proposed. Please contact Christine Houghton at [executivedirector@cab-bc.org](mailto:executivedirector@cab-bc.org) with any comments or questions.