



June 27, 2022

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

Re: Authority to Review Additional Qualification Changes

Council approved proposed amendments to the Accreditation of Teacher Education Regulation (O. Reg. 347/02) ("Accreditation Regulation") and the General Regulation (O. Reg. 563/21) at its June 16, 2022 meeting.

These proposed amendments were previously approved by both the Accreditation Committee and the Standards of Practice and Education Committee (on March 3, 2022 and on March 21, 2022, respectively), and are necessary to accurately reflect the work and distinct roles of each committee.

These amendments would transfer the authority to review and determine if existing Additional Qualification programs continue to qualify for accreditation from the Accreditation Committee to the Standards of Practice and Education Committee ("SPE Committee").

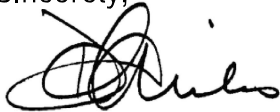
A briefing note providing the background and the proposed regulatory amendments is attached.

The motion approved by Council is as follows:

The Accreditation Regulation (O. Reg. 347/02) and General Regulation (O. Reg. 563/21) be amended to transfer the authority to review and determine if existing Additional Qualification programs continue to qualify for accreditation from the Accreditation Committee to the Standards of Practice and Education Committee, as set out in Appendix A.

The College looks forward to working with the Ministry of Education in order to make the necessary regulatory amendments to both the Accreditation and General Regulations. Both support the College's efforts to protect the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diana Miles
Chair of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Bélisle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chantal Bélisle, OCT
Interim Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

DM/CB/JB/JL/tk-ccs

Encl.



**Ontario
College of
Teachers**

**Ordre des enseignantes
et des enseignants
de l'Ontario**

Briefing Note

Authority to Review Additional Qualification Changes

Issue

Amendments to the Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs Regulation (O. Reg. 347/02) (“Accreditation Regulation”) and General Regulation (O. Reg. 563/21) are required in order to transfer the authority to determine whether Additional Qualifications (AQs) continue to qualify for accreditation from the Accreditation Committee to the Standards of Practice and Education Committee (“SPE Committee”). This transfer of authority would accurately reflect the work and distinct roles of each committee. The authority to grant initial accreditation to AQs would remain with the Registrar.

Background

The Accreditation Regulation establishes requirements related to the accreditation of pre-service teacher education programs and the accreditation of in-service AQs.

With respect to pre-service teacher education programs, the Accreditation Committee has the authority (under Part III of the Accreditation Regulation) to grant accreditation to these programs as well as review whether they continue to qualify for accreditation should there be changes to the programs or providers.

Part IV of the Accreditation Regulation sets out requirements related to in-service AQ

accreditation. The Registrar has the initial authority to accredit AQs, but the authority to review changes to providers or programs resides with the Accreditation Committee. The authority to review changes is described in greater detail below and it is what should reside with the SPE Committee instead of the Accreditation Committee:

Change in Circumstances of the Provider -

Section 32 of the Accreditation Regulation allows the Accreditation Committee to review an AQ if there has been a change in circumstances with respect to the provider of the AQ. A change in circumstances occurs if:

- (a) the provider of the program has lost its professional accreditation as an educational institution in a jurisdiction in which it operates;
- (b) the legal authority of the provider to operate the program is suspended or revoked; or
- (c) the provider has ceased to provide the program.

If one of these changes has occurred, the Accreditation Committee is required to revoke the accreditation of the provider’s pre-service programs and AQs.

Substantial Changes to the Program -

Section 33 of the Accreditation Regulation sets out that the Accreditation Committee must conduct a review of an AQ if there is a substantial change in its duration,

character, or components; the program no longer meets accreditation requirements; or the program has failed to meet a condition of accreditation. If such a change occurs, the Accreditation Committee (or Committee panel) conducts a review and the accreditation of the AQ is confirmed, denied or conditions are imposed.

Proposed Direction

The authority to review changes in circumstances or substantial changes for AQs should reside with the SPE Committee instead of the Accreditation Committee.

The Accreditation Regulation should continue to provide that the Registrar accredit AQs while the SPE Committee would have a new authority to review changes in circumstances and substantial changes. This includes decisions made by the SPE Committee that require the Registrar to revoke or add conditions to AQ accreditation.

The SPE Committee focuses on in-service whereas the Accreditation Committee focuses on pre-service. Such a transfer would respect the distinct work and roles of each committee. For example, a duty of the SPE Committee is to review and approve AQ guidelines, as set out in the General Regulation:

S. 27 (4) (d) reviewing and approving policy guidelines for programs of additional qualification;

By contrast, the Accreditation Committee's authority and work is with respect to accreditation of initial teacher education programs. Despite this clear focus on initial teacher education programs, the duties of the Accreditation Committee, as set out in regulation,

include a review authority for AQs – an authority that ought to be solely within the purview of the SPE Committee:

S. 5 (d) determining, at the direction of the Registrar and in the circumstances permitted by the accreditation regulation, if accredited programs of professional education and accredited programs of additional qualification continue to qualify for accreditation;
[emphasis added]

This underlined duty in the General Regulation would also require amendment to transfer it from the Accreditation Committee to the SPE Committee in order to give effect to the corresponding transfer of the AQ change review authority in the Accreditation Regulation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the following motion:

The Accreditation Regulation (O. Reg. 347/02) and General Regulation (O. Reg. 563/21) be amended to transfer the authority to review and determine if existing Additional Qualification programs continue to qualify for accreditation from the Accreditation Committee to the Standards of Practice and Education Committee, as set out in Appendix A.

Next Steps

The motion above was approved by the Accreditation Committee on March 3, 2022 and the Standards of Practice and Education Committee on March 21, 2022. Should Council approve of this direction, College and Ministry staff would prepare regulatory amendments for Council's consideration on a date to be determined.

Prepared by:

Policy and Research Unit

Date:

April 22, 2022

Appendix “A”

ACCREDITATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGULATION (O. REG. 347/02)

Denial of accreditation

~~30. (1) If the Registrar, or the Accreditation Committee under section 32, issues a decision denying accreditation of a program of additional qualification, the provider of the program shall notify all persons who apply to enter the program that the program is not accredited by the College.~~

Review, change in circumstances

32. (1) The Registrar shall notify the Standards of Practice and Education Accreditation Committee and the provider of a program if the Registrar has reason to believe,

- (a) that the provider of the program has lost its professional accreditation as an educational institution in a jurisdiction in which it operates;
- (b) that the legal authority of the provider to operate the program is suspended or revoked; or
- (c) that the provider has ceased to provide the program. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 32 (1); O. Reg. 182/10, s. 12; O. Reg. 565/21, s. 6.

(2) On receipt of a notice under subsection (1), the **Standards of Practice and Education** Accreditation Committee shall determine if the event described in the notice has occurred. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 32 (2).

~~(3) If the Accreditation Committee determines that an event described in clause (1) (a) or (b) has occurred, the Committee shall issue an order to revoke the accreditation of all programs of professional education and programs of additional qualification provided by the provider. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 32 (3).~~

~~(4) If the Accreditation Committee determines that the provider of the program has ceased to provide the program, the Committee shall issue an order to revoke the accreditation of the program. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 32 (4).~~

(3) The Registrar shall issue an order to revoke the accreditation of all programs of additional qualification provided by the provider if the Standards of Practice and Education Committee determines that an event described in subsection (1) has occurred.

Review, substantial change in program

33. (1) The Registrar shall notify the Standards of Practice and Education Accreditation Committee and the provider of a program if the Registrar has reason to believe that,

- (a) a provider has substantially changed the character, duration or components of the program;
- (b) the program no longer meets the accreditation requirements; or
- (c) the program has failed to meet a condition imposed on its grant of accreditation. O. Reg. 181/09, s. 6; O. Reg. 565/21, s. 7 (1).

(2) On receipt of a notice under subsection (1),

- (a) the Standards of Practice and Education Accreditation Committee shall conduct a review of the program in accordance with section 26 with respect to the program's fulfilment of the requirements for accreditation under this Part; and ~~or~~

(b) shall issue a decision to confirm or deny accreditation of the program and indicate whether there shall be conditions imposed on accreditation. ~~the chair of the Accreditation Committee shall direct an accreditation panel to conduct a review of the program in accordance with section 26 with respect to the program's fulfilment of the requirements for accreditation under this Part. O. Reg. 565/21, s. 7 (2).~~

~~(3) If the review is conducted by an accreditation panel, section 13 applies with necessary modifications and the Accreditation Committee shall consider the accreditation panel's final report and the comments of the provider of the program before issuing its decision to confirm or deny accreditation of the program and determining whether to impose conditions on accreditation. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 33 (3).~~

(4) The Standards of Practice and Education Accreditation Committee shall issue its decision in writing and shall include in the decision the reasons for the Committee's decision and the facts on which the decision is based. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 33 (4).

(5) The Standards of Practice and Education Accreditation Committee shall provide a copy of the decision to the Registrar and the provider of the program. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 33 (5); S.O. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 13, s. 3 (1).

~~(6) The Registrar shall issue an order to revoke the accreditation of a program of additional qualification if the Accreditation Committee issues a decision denying accreditation of the program after the review required under this section. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 33 (6); S.O. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 13, s. 3 (1).~~

(6) In accordance with the decision issued by the Standards of Practice and Education Committee after the review required under this section, the Registrar shall issue an order:

(a) to revoke the accreditation of a program of additional qualification if the Committee's decision is that the program no longer qualifies for accreditation under this Part; or

(b) to do one or more of the following:

(i) Add conditions for the continuing accreditation of a program of additional qualification.

(ii) Change conditions previously imposed on the accreditation of a program of additional qualification.

(iii) Change the accreditation period of a program of additional qualification.

GENERAL REGULATION (O. REG. 563/21)

27 (4) The duties of the Standards of Practice and Education Committee are limited to,

- (a) reviewing and approving professional learning requirements for members of the College;
- (b) reviewing and approving policies to support the ongoing promotion of continuing competence by members of the College;
- (c) reviewing, approving and promoting ethical and practice standards for members of the College;
- (d) reviewing and approving policy guidelines for programs of additional qualification; and
- (e) reviewing and approving professional advisories to guide the practice of members of the College.

(f) determining, at the direction of the Registrar and in the circumstances permitted by the accreditation regulation, if accredited programs of additional qualification continue to qualify for accreditation;

28 (5) The duties of the Accreditation Committee are limited to,

- (a) determining whether programs of professional education qualify for accreditation under the accreditation regulation;
- (b) determining if accredited programs of professional education qualify for a renewal of accreditation under the accreditation regulation;
- (c) granting accreditation, with or without conditions, to programs of professional education that qualify for accreditation under the accreditation regulation;

- (d) determining, at the direction of the Registrar and in the circumstances permitted by the accreditation regulation, if accredited programs of professional education ~~and accredited programs of additional qualification~~ continue to qualify for accreditation; and
- (e) carrying out any duties assigned to it under Part IV of the accreditation regulation.