

Alberta's Challenges in Pursuing Self-Regulation

1. **Political Climate:**

- a. Making the initial and future contacts with Government representative.
- b. Building a strong working relationship with Government representatives
- c. Being cognizant of changes that may affect Government.

For Example: Provincial and national elections, changes within departments staff, policy changes, and budget constraints or short falls.

- d. Proving that there is a significant Risk to the Public if Therapeutic Recreation is not regulated.

2. **Use of appropriate terminology:**

- a. Being sure that as terminology changes as does the proposal, future communications with Government representatives and Therapeutic Recreation Association makes changes to how we communicate as well as consistently updating guiding documents. Terminology is guided through the Provincial Government.
- b. Educating and encouraging members to use terminology that reflects language used within the Health Professions Act.

For Example: HPA does not use a list of tasks to define Scope of Practice (tasks are activities performed in fulfillment of a role – they do not define scope of practice), alternatively, the HPA focuses on competency (which is defined as the knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgment to safely provide care, guide decision making and perform restricted activities)

3. **Professional Advancement Committees:**

- a. Encouraging provincial membership to become part of the committee's to support change within the profession.
- b. Having time to get the committee's up and running. These are volunteer committees and volunteer boards directing these committee's so timing is important.
- c. Finding a way to communicate with committee members – through technology.

For Example: Drop Box, Lync, Telehealth, Skype, Go To Meetings

4. **Working with other Regulated Health Professions:**

- a. Connecting with regulated Health Professions that can assist and guide the association towards becoming regulated.
- b. Keeping the lines of communication open with Regulated Health Professions that in the future may have the ability to challenge Therapeutic Recreation's proposal to become regulated.

5. **Ability to update HPA Proposal to the Government of Alberta:**

- a. Being sure that Government representative is willing to assist your association in updating and upgrading proposal's verses refusing the proposal. If the proposal is not accepted then the association must start the entire process from the beginning and then will be required to reapply.
- b. Knowing what information to pass along that is deemed valuable in moving proposal forward. Much of this information can be provided through meetings or conversations with assigned government representatives
- c. Knowing when this information should be passed along.

For Example: Pass along information in January verses December as people go on holidays so pass along information when people are starting up fresh from holidays.