



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNSELLING THERAPY  
OF ALBERTA

Precursor to the College of  
Counselling Therapy of Alberta

# Collaborative Work-to-date to Regulate the Counselling Profession in Alberta

*Protecting the Public, Together*

- Counselling Professions
- Government of Alberta

2005 - 2016

Professional advocacy to the Alberta Government (Gov't) regulate counselling professionals

Multiple health ministers support the regulation of counsellors

2016

At the recommendation of Gov't, the counselling associations in Alberta create common entry-to-practice competencies, training, and standards of practice.

2017  
AUGUST

Application submission to Gov't for self-regulation of counselling professions that demonstrates the public risk of unregulated counselling and the inclusion of Addiction Counsellors and Child and Youth Care Counsellors at the government's direction.

2017 - 2018  
AUGUST

Gov't decides, to regulate counselling professions and completed all necessary steps for a Bill to be presented to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

2018  
DECEMBER

**LEGISLATION  
PASSED  
UNANIMOUSLY**

The legislation to regulate counselling professions passes unanimously under the ***Mental Health Services Protection Act***. The College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta (CCTA) is set to open upon completion and approval of the regulations.

2019  
JANUARY

The Gov't requests the Association of Counselling Therapy of Alberta (ACTA) be developed as the precursor organization to the CCTA and was given the direction to develop the college and grandparent the profession.

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2019  
SEPTEMBER

ACTA begins grandparenting the profession.

2019  
MARCH -  
OCTOBER

**GOV'T DRAFTS REGULATIONS**

Gov't drafts CCTA regulations which included:

- definition and scope of practice; jurisdictional review; reciprocity agreements; substantial equivalency process; professional titles
- requirements for: practice hours and supervision, education, liability insurance, character, reputation, criminal record, and vulnerable sector check, continuing competency and professional conduct
- restricted activities to be authorized by the college and supervision requirements—restricted activity of psychosocial intervention

2019  
OCTOBER -  
PRESENT

ACTA develops the CCTA in preparation for opening, including planning for Indigenous collaboration within the CCTA governance model.

2020  
MAY

Minister of Health confirms to ACTA that CCTA is a Gov't priority and will be proclaimed.

2021  
JANUARY -  
FEBRUARY

**GOV'T COMPLETES CONSULTATION - WIDESPREAD SUPPORT**

Gov't completes robust consultation. Strong participation and support from stakeholders were received.

2021  
SPRING

Gov't consults with ACTA and incorporates feedback from the consultation into the regulations.

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2021  
EARLY JUNE

**FINAL WORK  
TOWARDS  
PROCLAMATION**

Gov't completes final steps for regulation approval, including planning for the CCTA opening date of July 1, 2021.

2021  
LATE JUNE

Gov't notifies ACTA that the progress on CCTA is stalled due to a concern raised by First Nations.

2021  
SUMMER

Gov't commits to resolving First Nations concern. Directs ACTA not to contact any First Nations.

2021  
SEPTEMBER

**GOV'T STALLS  
PROCLAMATION**

Gov't suddenly advises that the CCTA will not move forward due to First Nation concern.

2021  
SEPTEMBER -  
ONGOING

ACTA implores Gov't to work with Indigenous Communities. ACTA resumes engaging Indigenous Leaders to ensure inclusion in CCTA governance.

2022  
MARCH

Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addiction directs consultation with First Nations, Metis, service providers, and employers with no timeline. To date, ACTA has not been informed that this work has been initiated.

2023  
APRIL

Alberta Health acknowledged each profession warrants separate consideration. Regulating Counselling Therapists alone would be a simplified and well-rationalized route, given the additional consultation required for Addiction Counsellors and Child and Youth Care Counsellors, should the Ministers support this direction.

2023  
SEPTEMBER

Minister's Office of Mental Health and Addiction states work regarding additional consultation with the CCTA is needed and would clarify the timeframe with ACTA in a few weeks.

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2023  
OCTOBER

Minister of Mental Health and Addiction indicates extensive additional consultation is needed with no timeline, no mention of the extensive Gov't consultation already completed in 2021, and no clarification on who will be consulted.

2021 -  
ONGOING

**CCTA REMAINS  
READY TO OPEN**

While waiting for the Gov't to complete its work, ACTA remains ready to open CCTA, counselling professionals continue to fund sustaining CCTA readiness, and indigenous engagement and support increases.

2023  
NOVEMBER

ACTA requests Gov't to proclaim the regulations for Counselling Therapists to provide immediate increased public safety

2023  
DECEMBER -  
2024  
JANUARY

**TREATY 6 &  
TREATY 8 CALL  
GOV'T TO  
PROCLAIM  
THE CCTA**

Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta send letters to Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions calling for proclamation of the CCTA to address escalating mental health crisis.

**Once proclaimed, The College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta will be under the *Health Professions Act (HPA)***

Responsible for serving the public interest by regulating the health profession of counselling therapy as outlined in the *HPA*, including:

- registering counselling therapists
- developing, maintaining and enforcing professional regulations, standards of practice and codes of ethics
- investigate complaints and impose disciplinary sanctions as appropriate, including enforcing mandatory sanctions for sexual abuse and misconduct
- oversee continuing education and competence programs for counselling therapists

Diverse First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and public representatives will provide significant input and accountability into decisions regulating the profession of Counselling Therapists.

The CCTA Council will be comprised of 50% public representatives.