



DID YOU KNOW...?

SUBJECT: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A REGULATORY AGENCY AND AN ASSOCIATION?

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Here are the top 10 differences between a regulatory agency/College, such as CASLPO, and an association of professionals, such as the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA):

	<i>Regulator</i>	<i>Association</i>
1	Acts in the interest of the public	Acts in the interest of the profession
2	Governed by a Council consisting of elected professional members; government appointed public members; academics	Governed by a Board of Directors consisting of professionals
3	Registers members based on legislated criteria. Membership is mandatory in order to practice.	Accepts members based on association-determined criteria. Membership is voluntary.
4	Requires all members of College to participate in annual mandatory quality assurance programs	Provides members with opportunities for voluntary continuing education
5	Sets mandatory standards of practice for members to ensure safe and competent service provided to patients.	Provides non-binding Practice advisories and guides for members.
6	Engages the public in order to inform them of the value of self-regulated professionals; provides protection to the public	Engages the members in order to serve their professional needs
7	Required to have a complaints process in place to respond to complaints about members who do not practice to the set standards and who engage in disreputable conduct	The provincial association is not required to have a complaints process in place

8	Does not engage in public political advocacy activities.	Advocates for the profession in order to effect changes to service delivery, to develop specialty certificates, increase public awareness of professional services; enhance scopes of practice; facilitate purchase of professional liability insurance.
9	Provides accessible information to the public regarding the professions, the registry of members, expected practice standards and the complaints process	Provides accessible information to its members regarding professional development opportunities, developments in the professional fields, political developments that affect the professions
10	Accountable to the public, the government and the members	Accountable to the members

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