

## **HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, RSBC 1996,**

### **Duty and objects of a college**

16 (1) It is the duty of a college at all times

(a) to serve and protect the public, and

(b) to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest.

(2) A college has the following objects:

(a) to superintend the practice of the profession;

(b) to govern its registrants according to this Act, the regulations and the bylaws of the college;

(c) to establish the conditions or requirements for registration of a person as a member of the college;

(d) to establish, monitor and enforce standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice and reduce incompetent, impaired or unethical practice amongst registrants;

(e) to establish and maintain a continuing competency program to promote high practice standards amongst registrants;

(f) to establish, for a college designated under section 12 (2) (h), a patient relations program to seek to prevent professional misconduct of a sexual nature;

(g) to establish, monitor and enforce standards of professional ethics amongst registrants;

(h) to require registrants to provide to an individual access to the individual's health care records in appropriate circumstances;

(i) to inform individuals of their rights under this Act and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;

(i.1) to establish and employ registration, inquiry and discipline procedures that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair;

(j) to administer the affairs of the college and perform its duties and exercise its powers under this Act or other enactments;

(k) in the course of performing its duties and exercising its powers under this Act or other enactments, to promote and enhance the following:

(i) collaborative relations with other colleges established under this Act, regional health boards designated under the *Health Authorities Act* and other entities in the Provincial health system, post-secondary education institutions and the government;

(ii) interprofessional collaborative practice between its registrants and persons practising another health profession;

(iii) the ability of its registrants to respond and adapt to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and other emerging issues.