

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
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DE PSYCHOLOGIE

Ethics Committee

November 2008

1. Attached to this report is the document “Ethical Guidelines for Supervision in Psychology: Teaching, Research, Practice, and Administration,” which the Committee on Ethics requests that the CPA Board of Directors consider for formal adoption at its November 2008 meeting. A draft of these guidelines was approved by the CPA Board in June 2008 for posting on the CPA website for a 90-day consultation period.

The guidelines have been under development for approximately two years, and are a response by the CPA Committee on Ethics to numerous inquiries from CPA members regarding supervisory dilemmas and to repeated comments about the need for ethical guidelines for supervisory activities in psychology. Prior to the June 2008 draft, all CPA Sections, Canadian psychology departments, and voluntary and regulatory bodies of psychologists across Canada were invited to provide feedback as part of the development process.

The recent consultation period ended on 15 October 2008, and the attached document incorporates comments/suggestions received during the consultation. Feedback was received not just from CPA members, but also from other psychologists in Canada and other countries. Feedback has been overwhelmingly favourable, resulting in very few changes to the attached document.

2. The Committee is continuing to prepare Code Interpretations on the following topics, with expected presentation to the Board at its next meeting:

- a. Psychological services to clients making end-of-life decisions.
- b. “Ethical Guidelines for Psychologists Providing Psychological Services via Electronic Media.” Although approved in principle by the Board, when circulated for consultation, there was concern that the guidelines were “too prescriptive”; however, enquiries continue to come in from CPA members and the public. The guidelines are being re-written as a Code Interpretation.
- c. Use of titles and designations. This is an outstanding topic that did not seem to call for a set of guidelines. A brief Code Interpretation on this topic is being prepared.

3. Work continues on the development of an approach/materials/resources for the Ethics section of the CPA website.

4. The CPA web-based ethics course “Being an Ethical Psychologist” continues.

5. The Committee continued to respond to requests for consultation/advice/ information from persons directed to the Chair by CPA head office.

6. No new ethics complaints have been forwarded to the Committee since its last report to the Board, and processes regarding all previously forwarded ethics complaints have been completed.

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