

Accreditation of PSW Training Programs

Scope of Project:

The creation of an oversight/approval process would provide assurances to employers, prospective students and ultimately clients and the community at large that graduates have been trained in accordance with common training outcomes for both content and delivery. Preliminary work has been based on the MOHLTC PSW program standard.

Process:

1-2 years: Understanding all facets of the standards, identify areas that require attention and develop a plan to attain compliance where practice does not meet the standards.

Years 3 and onward would focus on four outcomes:

1. Ensuring standards continue to meet sector needs
2. Oversight of existing approved training bodies
3. Support to those still working on full compliance
4. Support to training bodies applying for first time approval

This will be similar to other accreditation processes (pre-survey questionnaire, review of documentation submitted, and a site visit to survey).

The process will involve an evaluation/assessment of the following:

- Program Content – what is taught, how much time is devoted to content
- Program Oversight – evidence of community relevance, advisory committee, community evaluations
- Instructor Qualifications and Deployment
- Admissions Criteria & Process
- Practicum Format – including practicum agency selection
- Program Quality Assurance – administrative policies, including residency, student conduct, policies governing suspension, readmission, returning student policies, student documentation
- Security
- Student Support – evidence of support to students having difficulty with content, liaison with external supports.