



Q: I am not currently practising as an early childhood educator, but I am a registered member of the College. Am I required to participate in the mandatory Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) program once it launches?

Practice Matters features questions regarding the College and the early childhood education profession. The College's Director of Professional Practice, Melanie Dixon RECE, and the Professional Practice team address issues that members face and apply the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* to various situations.

📧 Do you have a Professional Practice question? E-mail practice@college-ece.ca for more information.

R: As regulated professionals, all registered early childhood educators (RECEs), including those who are retired, working outside the profession or currently unemployed, will be required to participate in all components of the CPL program.

Although you may not be practising as an RECE you still hold the title and designation. This means that you have committed to abide by the standards of the profession and are accountable to the children and families of Ontario. Members of the public need to be assured that all RECEs are engaging in ongoing learning related to the profession and remain

knowledgeable about the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

On January 1, 2016 Regulation 359/15: Continuous Professional Learning came into effect under the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*. The mandatory CPL program will begin on September 1, 2016. For more information on the components of the program and when you will be required to begin participating, see our CPL article on page 10 or visit college-ece.ca/CPL.

The CPL program components include the free online Expectations for Practice Module and a CPL portfolio. The Self-Assessment Tool, Professional Learning Plan and Record of Professional Learning make up the CPL portfolio.

If you are a member who is not currently practising, you may choose to focus on ways that you can stay informed and connected to the profession when

completing the Self-Assessment Tool. For example, Standard IV: A.1. states that, "early childhood educators are current in their professional knowledge about the continuum of child development and the pedagogy related to early learning, curriculum, program planning, parenting and family dynamics."

Your professional learning goals and activities related to this standard of practice should be realistic and attainable for you while not practising. Learning activities could include reviewing applicable websites, seeking out any policy or curriculum documents, reading books or journal articles or accessing other resources that will keep your knowledge current. ■

Put it into Practice: Become familiar with the CPL portfolio. See page 17 of the CPL Portfolio Handbook for examples of continuous professional learning options. Review the Self-Assessment Tool and look for areas of interest that will help you maintain your knowledge of the early learning and child care sector. Discuss these areas with a colleague. Brainstorm a list of attainable goals and learning activities.