



Oversight Body vs. Association

What's the difference?

An oversight body, such as the Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority (HSCPOA) is focused on public protection, while an association such as the Ontario Personal Support Worker Association, (OPSWA) is focused on the interests of its members. The two act as system partners to deliver effective health care in Ontario.

	OVERSIGHT BODY (HSCPOA)	PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (OPSWA)
Mandate	Acts in the public interest.	Advocates for and acts in the interest of its members.
Accountability	Accountable to the public through the provincial government.	Accountable to its members.
Activities	<p>Establishes educational and experience requirements for registration.</p> <p>Establishes a legislated Code of Ethics, holding registrants accountable for safe, quality, ethical care. The Code of Ethics provides the foundation for HSCPOA's complaints and discipline process.</p> <p>Must maintain a required Public Register of all current and past registrants with employment location, registration history and any conduct concerns.</p>	<p>May publish best practice resources and may offer continuing education opportunities.</p> <p>May publish an online database of its members and employers.</p> <p>Creates member networking opportunities</p>
Registration vs. membership	Registers those qualified based on legislated criteria. Currently, registration with HSCPOA is voluntary.	Accepts members based on criteria determined by the association and may remove members at its discretion. Membership is voluntary.
Quality Assurance	Is legally required to promote the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of qualifications and skills to ensure registrants provide safe, quality, and ethical care.	May provide members with opportunities for continuing education.
Complaints and reports	Has a legislated complaints and discipline process.	May provide support to members by helping them respond to complaints/reports about their conduct/behaviour, and by offering professional liability insurance.
Advocacy	Works with government, registrants and the public to ensure safe, quality ethical care, in the public interest, but does not do any overt advocacy work.	Advocates for professional recognition to affect changes to service delivery, wages, working conditions, and public awareness of services.

To learn more about HSCPOA, visit: hscpoa.com

Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority

Quality care is the cornerstone of our healthcare system and PSWs play a critical role. As part of efforts to hire, support and retain the people who provide vital services, the Government of Ontario has created HSCPOA, which offers significant benefits to PSWs, their employers, and the people who count on their care.



Visit: hscpoa.com