

The Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation (CACCF) is pleased to announce a new credential in relation to the Registered Substance Abuse Expert (RSAE) Program. The RSAE Program provides Organizations, Unions, Employees, Safety-Sensitive Industries, and Communities, the peace of mind of knowing that competence and quality are paramount when addressing Substance Use Issues.

The newest set of credentials are intended to provide organizations and industry a qualified standard for all clinicians' working within safety-sensitive environments where SAE activities are occurring (clinical assessments, treatment of substance use issues, and drug-testing recommendations). **Currently, there are NO standards and NO regulations in place** and unfortunately many clinicians' working within this area are either undertrained and/or unqualified to be conducting assessments and/or providing ongoing care. **Current assessment and treatment services are potentially not valid, reliable or legally defensible without the credentials of a recognized expert.**

Questions to Consider when Selecting an SAE Provider---

Many organizations are beginning to ask, "Who is qualified to be conducting work in this critical area"? The answer to this question can be complex. The vast majority of EFAP and other Providers are often not trained to an "expert level" in

Substance Disorders and thus many are not qualified to be conducting this type of work. **Providers typically use the terms C-SAE and C-SAP neither of these terms is from an external professional licensing body---**they were developed internally by the provider.

For those individuals that are Psychologists' and Clinical Social Workers, this alone does not qualify them to be experts in the Substance Disorders area either. In Canada, the respective provincial College of Psychologists and the provincial Association of Social Workers performs a meaningful and qualified function in vetting those candidates seeking to provide general mental health services however, neither of these organizations can claim that they have processes in place to credential professionals specifically for work in Addictions.

The public deserves qualified providers in this area and as such, those individuals holding a CACCF designation are clearly the professional experts in Addiction & Substance Disorder Services. The individuals holding an R.Psych. or RSW are not necessarily qualified to be providing Addiction Services and thus should possess this additional certification to show this expertise. This practice is similar to the medical community where an MD working within Addiction Medicine also seeks qualification through the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) credentialing based upon having attained specific education related to Substance

Disorders. **In Canada if you want to know that someone has been professionally credentialed in the SAE area, seek out a CACCF-RSAE or RSAS.** The RSAE program is recognized by the CACCF as the National Standard of programming in the Substance Disorders field in relation to Safety-Sensitive Workplaces.

The CACCF is currently the only organization in Canada able to offer a qualified professional certification in the Substance Disorder's area.



The RSAE program has two levels of qualifications inclusive of the RSAE (Registered Substance Abuse Expert) and the RSAS (Registered Substance Abuse Supervisor). The various levels of certification ensure that service providers are operating and are qualified within their respective areas of service provision.

CACCF FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Offering unique certifications to counsellors since 1985
- Credible certification body in Canada with representation across all Canadian provinces and territories
- Active member of the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) certifying body
- International standards widely respected and abided by in the addiction profession
- Hailed by leading authorities throughout the world as the symbol of quality assurance

REASONS FOR CACCF CERTIFICATION

Among the many reasons to become certified are:

- To assure to the public a minimum level of competency for quality service by alcoholism and drug addiction counsellors
- To give professional recognition to qualified alcohol and drug addiction counsellors through a process that examines demonstrated work competency
- To assure an ongoing opportunity for alcohol and drug counsellors to further their professional development and education in the field
- To enable alcohol and drug counsellors to become eligible for reimbursement for the professional health care services

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Overview of the New RSAE & RSAS Certifications



ABOUT THE CACCF

KEY MESSAGES OF THE CACCF

The Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation (CACCF) promotes, certifies, and monitors the competency of addiction specific counsellors in Canada using current and effective practices, which are internationally recognized.

The CACCF certification and its professional conduct review process provide public protection for counsellors, employers, regulatory agencies, clients and their families.



The CACCF provides its counsellors with qualified, professional, credible, and legal certification, offering personal pride and satisfaction.