



## Overview of the New RSAE & RSAS Certifications

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. This 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 (drug-testing, follow-up, clinical assessments, and treatment of substance use issues). **Currently, there are NO standards and NO regulations in place.** This newest set of credentials will now provide the SAE Industry with a qualified professional environment.

Dr. J. P. Streukens initiated the term Substance Abuse Expert (SAE) as a response to the United States Department of Transportation Substance Abuse Professional (SAP). Dr. Streukens has developed both the RSAE and RSAS Programs for use in certification.

### **Current SAE Industry Realities**

- Majority of clinicians have no formal and/or credentialed substance disorders education/ training
- Majority have not sought out qualified supervision when expanding their clinical skill sets
- Few possess direct inpatient or clinical outpatient treatment experience
- Most clinicians' working in the SAE area are specialized in something other than addictive disorders
- Most corporations/organizations/unions assume when told that their provider is "qualified" that they are.

Many individuals' are using **a C-SAE or a C-SAP designation, which is not based upon any externally licensed formal evaluation process** and is simply an internal provider program offering without the backing of a licensed professional qualified body. Additionally, 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.

**If you want to know that someone has been professionally credentialed in this area, seek out either an RSAE or an RSAS. 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 is recognized by the CACCF as the National Standard of programming in the Substance Disorders field as it relates to Safety-Sensitive Work Environments.**

**The RSAE program has two levels of qualifications:**

- RSAE (Registered Substance Abuse Expert)
- 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 for over 20 years
- Credible certification body in Canada with representation across all Canadian provinces and territories
- Active member of the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium 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

### ***Purpose of the RSAE Program***

The purpose of the RSAE Program is to train and certify addiction professionals in the testing, treatment, and monitoring of employees for substance abuse. The primary focus is upon employees working in high risk or safety-sensitive occupations.

### ***Criteria and Requirements for Training and Certification***

There are two levels of registration:

- Registered Substance Abuse Expert (RSAE)
- Registered Substance Abuse Supervisor (RSAS)

#### **RSAE**

- ICADC, ICCDP, ICCDPD, ICCAC or ICCS (Administered by CACCF or any IC & RC Board \*)
- Practitioners holding a degree in psychology, medicine, nursing or social work with a minimum of three years (6000 hours) in the addiction field. For Provisional Status there is a requirement of one year (2000 hours) in the addictions field.

#### **RSAS**

- All of the RSAE qualifications with a minimum of five years' experience in the substance abuse field. All educational requirements must be at a Master's level or above.



### ***RSAE Professional Value***

#### **RSAE**

The investment in time and money will have a high return on investment. The fees that the RSAE will be able to charge will quickly regain the investment. CACCF's continued promotion will also assist the RSAE (See *CACCF Recommended Fee Guide*).

#### **RSAS**

Companies will have the assurance that they are engaging "experts". This will assist their human resource process and reduce their risk of litigation and higher insurance rates. RSAS will additionally be able to charge, should they choose to do so, a nominal fee to those candidates that they are actively supervising for supervision time, consultation, and report sign-off activities. Recommended fees for supervision time and consultation are typically set at the rates for one-hour (or a portion thereof) of professional consult time as set by your current professional organization.

### ***CACCF Recommended Fee Guide***

**RSAE Assessment** \$925.00/ assessment

**RSAE Treatment** \$125.00- \$200.00/ hour

**RSAS Sign-Off** \$250.00/ report

**RSAS Supervision** \$125.00- \$200.00/ hour

### ***Registration Fees***

**RSAE**...\$1300.00 (less the \$300.00 application fee)

**RSAS** (post RSAE Registration)...\$850.00

**RSAE and RSAS Recertification Fees** (every two years)...\$250.00

***A RSAE clinician will recuperate the \$1,300.00 certification fee after two (2) assessments.***