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February 12, 2020

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To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators (CSME) I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the upcoming consultation session exploring the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's (CPSO) policies on *Third Party Reports* and *Medical Expert: Reports and Testimony*.

By way of background, CSME is the leading national organization of professionals involved in independent medicolegal and clinicolegal evaluations. The mandate of CSME's Board is to promote and support evidence-based medicine and best clinical practices by way of various educational and credentialing initiatives and programs. In addition, CSME provides a forum for the sharing of knowledge, experience and innovation amongst Canadian clinician evaluators. CSME has over 200 active clinician members and hosts hundreds of additional participants at our conferences on an annual basis, with attendees from clinical, legal and industry settings. Our Board consists of a broad cross-functional representation of key stakeholder groups from the fields of general and sub-specialty medicine, surgery, psychology, neuropsychology, chiropractic, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and both plaintiff and defence legal practitioners.

In addition to being a provider of continuing education across a wide range of topical areas to clinical assessors involved with independent evaluations for insurers and lawyers across Canada, since 2016 CSME has also placed special emphasis on developing educational programs that provide clear certification pathways in order to address the unique needs of the industry in Ontario and Canada. Specifically, in partnership with the Canadian Academy of Psychologists in Disability Assessment (CAPDA), we have designed two programs designed to meet the needs of Canadian clinicians conducting medicolegal work:

1. **CMLE** (Certification in Medico-Legal Expertise): The CMLE provides clinicians with a relevant knowledge framework in the area of medicolegal evaluation, including evidence-based application of core medicolegal reasoning principles and instruction on how to properly summarize this information in a constructive and clear manner for use by clinical and non-clinical professionals alike.
2. **C-CAT** (Certification in Catastrophic impairment assessments): Since its inception, the C-CAT program has been widely acknowledged as the leading program in Ontario, uniquely

structured to cover all-important skills and legislation required for clinicians to participate in the Ontario Catastrophic Impairment determination process in accordance with the Ontario Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule (SABS). The C-CAT program addresses the legislation from the perspective of all clinicians, including physical medicine, mental behavioural and allied health professionals. Our expert legal facilitators also analyze recent case law and present upcoming trends and practical skills for clinicians preparing testimony relating to catastrophic cases.

As always, we welcome ongoing feedback from regulatory bodies, government agencies and other industry participants as we aim to continuously improve our programs to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders.

With regards to the (CPSO) policies on *Third Party Reports* and *Medical Expert: Reports and Testimony*, we note these important policies have been the cornerstone of many of CSME's continuing education sessions over the years. The CPSO policies are held in high esteem and are continually referenced by nearly all medical, legal and insurer stakeholders, including those beyond the borders of Ontario and Canada. Simultaneously, we note that the Policies are currently under draft review and evolution. CSME would be pleased to provide specific feedback on the forthcoming final drafts and we look forward to offering our perspectives and expertise in any manner that would be of assistance to the CPSO in the future.

Thank you again for inviting CSME to participate in this consultation process.