

Canada Receives International Accreditation for Prosthetist and Orthotist Training

International recognition for Canadian Certified Prosthetists and Orthotists

[Ottawa, Ontario – September 11, 2019]

Orthotics Prosthetics Canada (OPC) is pleased to announce that its certification pathway for Orthotists and Prosthetists, has been granted accreditation by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) for 3 years at the Prosthetist/Orthotist level. ISPO accreditation serves to validate Canada's prosthetic and orthotic certification pathway on the global stage.

Only four institutions in the world have been accredited at the Prosthetist/Orthotist category with the new ISPO standards that are endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). In OPC's case, the ISPO accreditation applies to the entire certification pathway. ISPO looked at the accredited P&O education program, Residency Program and Certification Examinations. Canada is only the second pathway to be accredited by ISPO (most accreditation occurs exclusively at the education program level) with the US being the other.

“Successful ISPO accreditation signifies that a program meets infrastructure and resource requirements and produces highly-qualified entry-level practitioners, thereby increasing access to quality prosthetic and orthotic services.”



- ISPO Education Standards for Prosthetic and Orthotic Occupations.

The new ISPO Education Standards for Prosthetic/Orthotic Occupations respond to the evolving needs of persons with disabilities and the aging population worldwide. The number of people in need of assistive products is growing steadily, yet there is a significant shortage in competent workforce and available training programs. The ISPO education standards can be found here: [ISPO Education Standards](#)

Those that become Certified Orthotists CO(c) and Certified Prosthetists CP(c) through OPC from this point on, will be recognized internationally as an ISPO accredited Prosthetist/Orthotist. Not only does this open doors for labour mobility for future Canadian Certified Orthotists and Prosthetists, but it also enables OPC to further develop pathways for foreign trained/credentialed professionals to work in Canada.

About Orthotics Prosthetics Canada

Orthotics Prosthetics Canada (OPC) is the representative national organization for the orthotic and prosthetic profession, including approximately 450 Certified Clinicians and 150 Registered Technicians. OPC's role is to protect the public and advance the profession through quality standards of practice, professional credentialing, advocacy, and regulation.

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