

# FICHE 1

## Why a Professional Order?

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All professions which include practices that may cause injury or damage to clients, be it legal, physical, or monetary in nature, must answer to a professional order to ensure the protection of public. This is the case for almost all professions recognized as health care professionals.

### What is a Professional Order?<sup>1</sup>

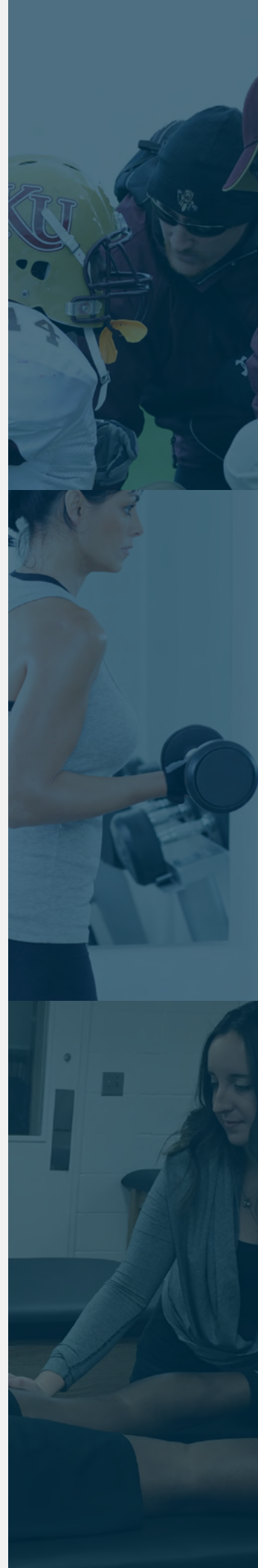
*A professional order is an organization that is constituted under the Code of Profession where the government delegates the power of oversight for matters of access and professional practice, in order to guarantee competent practices and to provide the framework for the activities whose risks characterize the profession. These organizations are composed of members of the profession who control it via an elective process. The profession is subject to the legal authority of the Office des professions (OPQ) and the government, and sets its own rules and accounts regarding financing and disciplinary structure. In exchange for the privilege that members of the order gain as the sole individuals with the right to hold the title and, where applicable, exclusive rights to certain acts, the establishment of a professional order carries responsibilities for practitioners, along with prerogatives and significant constraints aimed at protecting the public.*

As such, when considering the opportunity to regulate a profession in Quebec, several factors must be examined, including those set out in Section 25 of the Code:

- the seriousness of the injuries that may be suffered by individuals who seek services from practitioners whose

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1. Translated from : *Mise en place d'un ordre professionnel*, page 9, published by the OPQ



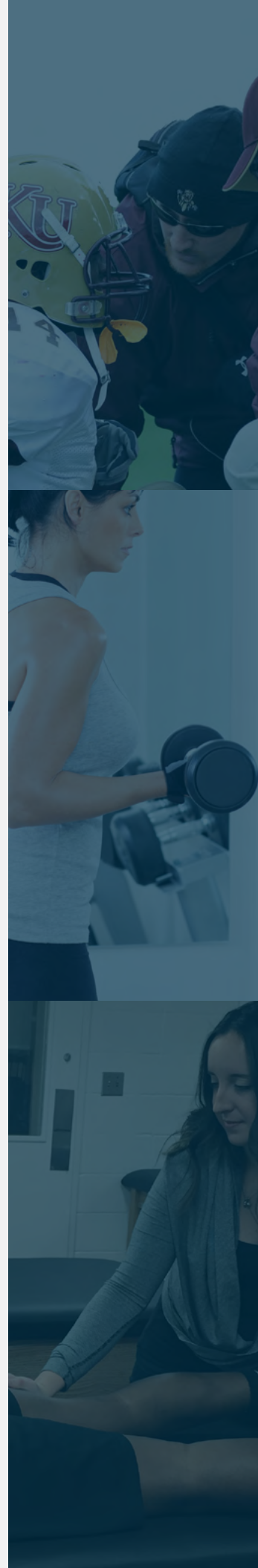
- competency or integrity are not overseen by an order;
- the knowledge required to carry out related professional activities;
  - the degree of autonomy of individuals providing these services and the difficulty for the public to make judgments regarding their acts, since clients and patients do not have the competency or the training that practitioners possess;
  - the personal nature of the rapport with clients and patients;
  - the confidential nature of the information required to carry out the profession.

### What a Professional Order is Not

*Should the goal of creating a professional order be to acknowledge the rightful value of a profession? The answer is no. Professional orders should not constitute groups of individuals who carry out similar work and wish to therefore collectively defend their social and fiscal interests. As such, the mission of orders is not to improve the status or working conditions of its members. That is the role of professional bodies and union associations.*

In 2002, the adoption of [Law 90](#), aimed at modifying the [Professional Code](#), played a role in triggering the CTSQ's process to obtain professional recognition. It took ten years for the CTSQ (from 2002 to April 2012) to obtain its first recognition in the form of an [authorization regulation](#) sponsored by the Collège des médecins du Québec. At that time, we also prepared [questionnaire regarding the regulation](#). You may also consult this document that outlines the history of the CTSQ's undertakings once online.

In 2016, the OPQ asked us to prove the viability of creating a professional order for athletic therapists in Quebec. Last fall, we submitted a five-year budget to the OPQ and the Collège des médecins, and on January 31 of this year, we met with the Office for a second time. They were kind enough to share their comments and suggestions with us. Their conclusion was that a professional order for athletic therapists was viable in Quebec, but that it would require a



minimum number of members – one that was established at a minimum of 300 for the first year. Newsletter 2 addresses the topic of annual fees to the order.

What membership in a professional order means in concrete terms:

1. The right to practise the profession. Only therapists who hold a permit delivered by the order will have the right to practise athletic therapy in Quebec.
2. A reserved title. Only therapists who are granted a permit by the order will be able to use the title of athletic therapist in Quebec and other related derivations. The CAT (C) designation, which comes with national accreditation, can only be used in conjunction with the official title by individuals who have been granted a permit by the order. This provision will help us crack down on anyone using the title without holding a permit or without fulfilling the order's eligibility requirements. This matter will be discussed in more detail in a future document.
3. The right to practise reserved acts. Only permit holders are authorized to practise (for authorized acts, see the authorization regulation and questionnaire).

Just a reminder: a [page FAQ](#) has been set up on the CTSQ website. This page will be regularly updated to answer questions that we receive as the process evolves. Please consult it regularly and send your questions and comments to [transition@ctsq.qc.ca](mailto:transition@ctsq.qc.ca).

