



ASSOCIATION QUÉBÉCOISE
DES CONSULTANTES EN LACTATION
DIPLOMÉES DE L'IBLCE

Montreal,
March, 2014

In March of 2013 the AQC Board was asked to deliberate about the practice of some members issuing Naturotherapist receipts for IBCLC services (through the Association des Naturothérapeutes du Québec - ANQ). These receipts could be used by some clients for reimbursement from their insurance company.

The Board then undertook an investigation which involved a number of steps. We consulted with the ILCA Ethics and International Code Committee, communicated with some of the individuals involved, spoke with the ANQ, and held several internal discussions. The contents of this letter summarize the conclusions from this process, which were also presented at the AQC AGA in November 2013.

The issues that arose during this process were:

- The compatibility of these two credentials (the ANQ definition of naturotherapy is any natural therapy, defined as the exclusion of allopathic treatments and of chemical remedies such as prescribed medications).
- The extent to which the IBCLC can be accountable for her work if the receipts she supplies the mother do not show her LC credential (the ANQ explicitly prohibits the display of any other credential on their receipts).
- The honesty of an IBCLC writing an ANQ receipt knowing that she hasn't achieved any new professional qualifications.
- The importance of increasing public access to IBCLC services, but in an open and transparent fashion.

Finally, the conclusion reached by the Board was that we do not recommend that our members write ANQ receipts for IBCLC services, for the following reasons:

- Although most IBCLCs work in a holistic fashion, our approach to clients is evidence-based, and we do not exclude effective allopathic remedies.
- We believe that accountable professional practice involves a clear communication of our credentials (*CPC 2.3 Be responsible and accountable for personal conduct and practice; 7.2 Provide only accurate information to the public and colleagues concerning lactation consultant services offered*), including a clear declaration of IBCLC status on receipts.
- Hiding who we are behind a purchased title confuses our clients and could give the appearance of duplicity. (*CPC 6.1 Behave honestly and fairly as a health professional.*) Gaining an accreditation solely for the purposes of

writing insurance receipts does not seem to be the kind of professional behaviour we should endorse.

- Although we strive to increase public access to our services, we aim to do so in a manner that also furthers the recognition of the IBCLC credential.

The Board recognizes that many practicing IBCLCs openly work under more than one professional designation, and we do not feel that this impedes their work or leads to professional conflict (and, it should be noted, the IBLCE has never prohibited this in any way). We also recognize (and sympathize with!) the impatience of many IBCLCs to broaden public access to our services. However in the long run, we feel that we can – and will – move in this direction openly and proudly as an integral part of the health care team.