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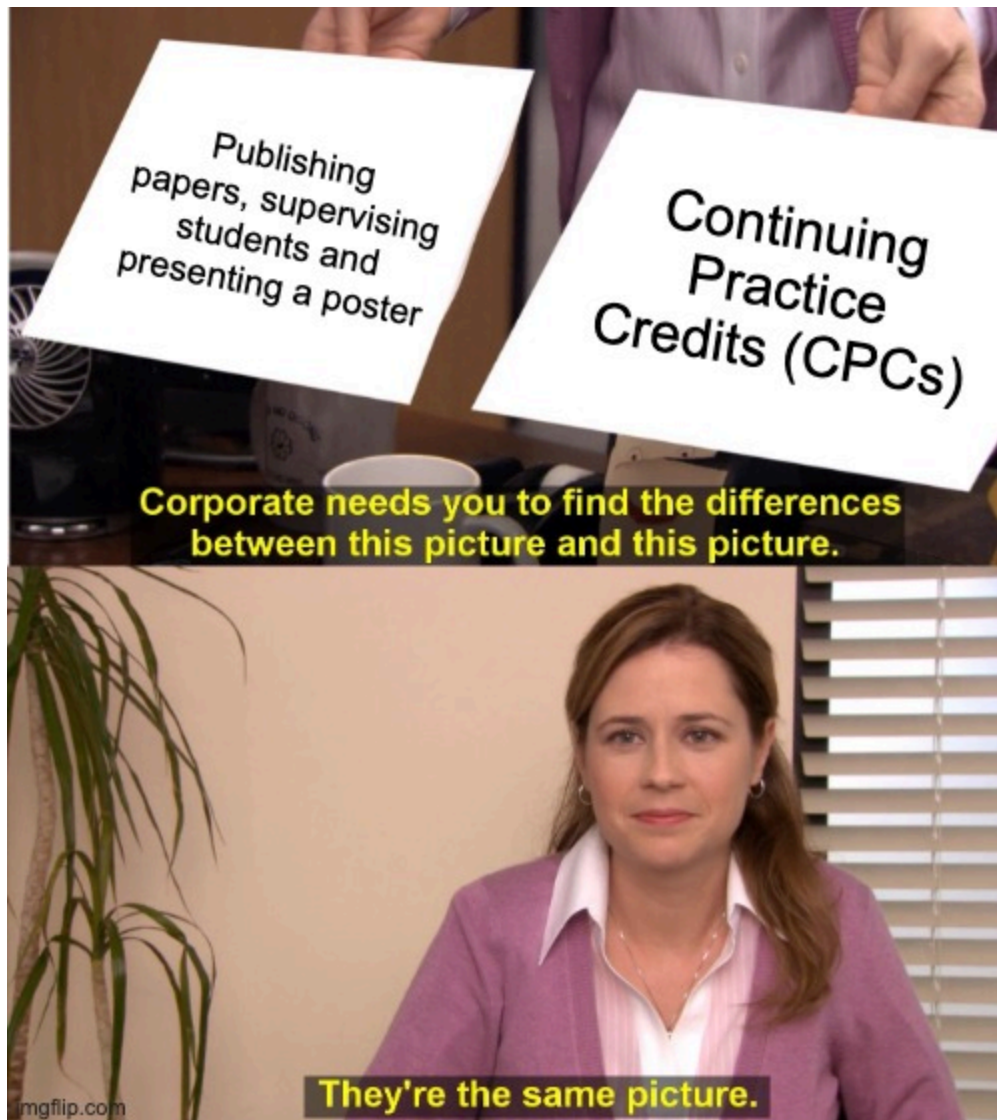


Canadian Board of Genetic Counselling  
Conseil Canadien de Conseil Génétique

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## **Bringing the CBGC Recertification Protocol into the Future!**

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**Sun is shining, the weather is sweet, ya!**

We hope that all of you have had a chance to enjoy some time off this summer! While you have been on vacation, the CBGC Board has been busy updating the Recertification Protocol!

When the the first Canadian exam was offered in 1998, this first group of GCs didn't have to recertify until 2008. Since then, there haven't been many updates to our Recertification Protocol despite the many changes our profession has seen in that time. As such, the CBGC decided it was time to update our Recertification Protocol to bring it in alignment with today's genetic counselling profession. Scroll down to the Myths, Misconceptions & Misunderstandings section of the newsletter to read about the details of this change. Many thanks to the Recertification Committee Chair, Nadine Dumas, for taking this project on to ensure that more CCGCs are able to recertify!

If you missed any of these newsletters, they can be found on the CBGC website [here](#). Don't hesitate to reach out to me (Rachel Vanneste) with any questions or feedback at [info@cbgc-cccg.ca](mailto:info@cbgc-cccg.ca).

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**Do you want to show off how proud you are to be a CCGC?!**  
**Pre-order your mug or zippered tote for pick-up at the CAGC AEC!**

If you are attending the CAGC-CCMG Annual Education Conference in Banff in October, save room in your carry-on! You can pre-order your mug or zippered tote for \$25 using [this form](#) and pick-up it up at the CBGC booth at the conference. You will be able to customize the dominant language and gender of the logo upon ordering.

If you aren't attending the conference but a colleague is, offer to buy them a coffee if they pick up your swag for you!



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## Learning Opportunities Approved for CECs

### Recently Approved:

[The CEU Shop: 2024 Book Club Bundle](#)

Virtual: Up to 28.30 CECs

[2025 Journal of Genetic Counselling CEU Program](#)

Virtual: Complete by Dec 15, 2025

Provisional approval: Up to 12 CECs

[Newborn Screening Ontario Symposium 2025](#)

Ottawa, ON, Sept 18-19, 2025: 9.5 CECs

[GeneDx Sponsored Webinar Series 2025](#)

Virtual 2025

Provisional approval: 4.00 CECs

McGill-CHEO Genetic Counselling Supervision Workshop

June 6, 2025: 3.75 CECs

CHEO Coffee and Credits

Ottawa, ON - April - Nov 2025

Provisional approval: 11 CECs

UM Genetic Counselling Program Professional Development Series

Winnipeg, MB - July 2025 - May 2026

Provisional approval: 26.5 CECs

**Pending approval**

Genetic Counsellor Education Series/Genetic Grand Rounds

The Hospital for Sick Children

Toronto, ON & virtual - Sept 2025-June 2026

BC Cancer Hereditary Cancer Program Educations Rounds

Virtual - September 2025 - June 2026

[CAGC-CCMG Annual Education Conference](#)

Banff, AB - October 5-8, 2025

[Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer \(CGA-IGC\)](#)

St Louis, MO - October 9-11, 2025

## Changing the rules around GC journal clubs and learning series

Until recently, the CBGC did not approve journal clubs and other medical education that occurred within working hours, as these learning opportunities were considered “expectations of the job”. However, this rule no longer aligned with the reality of many learning opportunities, as more and more webinars are now being made available during the work day. As such, we are approving education series for genetic counsellors through our CEC approval process. Join CHEO, Sick Kids and the University of Manitoba in planning monthly education for GCs and earn CECs!

[APPLY FOR CECs](#)

The CBGC board and CEC committee have been working hard to expand the breadth of CEC collection options for CCGCs. We recognize that there are a variety of ways to continue our education.

We encourage conference organizers to apply for CECs ahead of the conference so that individual GCs don't have to apply and pay themselves. The upcoming conferences and webinar series have submitted CEC applications on behalf of their CCGC attendees:

### Important Reminder!

You should **NOT** have to pay an additional fee to a conference for CECs. If a conference is charging for CECs, remember that the CBGC accepts your registration receipt as proof of attendance to earn CECs.

Please reach out to the CEC committee prior to purchasing any certificates from conference organizers for CBGC recertification.

[UP TO DATE LIST OF ALL APPROVED CEC ACTIVITIES](#)

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## Important Dates

**September 15, 2025** - 2025 Recertification early-bird period ends

**October 1, 2025** - 2026 Certification Exam application period opens

**October 5-8, 2025:** Come visit the CBGC booth and hear the CBGC update at the CAGC-CCMG conference in Banff, AB

**December 1, 2025** - 2025 Recertification period **AND** the 2026 Certification exam application period close

**February 19, 2026:** Certification Exam!

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## Myths, Misconceptions & Misunderstandings!

The CBGC is updating the way CCGCs can recertify!

### **Give me a history lesson. Why would the CBGC change the Recertification Protocol?**

Prior to 2025, the CBGC *required* two different type of credits for recertification: Continuing Education Credits (CECs) and Continuing Practice Credits (CPCs). In order to recertify, a GC had to earn at least 150 credits in ten years and previously, 20 and 70 of these credits being CPCs, which are calculated based on hours worked in clinical and non-clinical genetic counselling roles, while the remaining 80-130 credits were accrued through professional development, such as conferences/webinars or courses related to Indigenous issues.

However, in recent years, we have heard from GCs that they won't be able to recertify because they have not been able to accrue enough CPCs. Often this is due to the fact that what they have done in the last ten years doesn't fit in the definition of "clinical or non-clinical genetic counselling roles", such as going back to school to get a PhD, having a management role in a hospital or working in a government policy role. The work that these Canadian GCs are doing is important to our healthcare system and by maintaining their CCGC designation, they can highlight the value of Canadian Certified GCs in a variety of roles!

Given this, we wanted to ensure that we meet the needs of this subset of CCGCs and have modified our protocol to ensure our colleagues can remain certified.

## **OK, that makes sense. So what changes have been made to the Recertification Protocol?**

The CBGC has voted to no longer make CPCs a requirement for recertification. It remains an option for those working in clinical and non-clinical genetic counselling roles; however, those GCs who have ineligible job titles will still be able to recertify.

<b>Credit type</b>	<b>CPC</b>	<b>CEC</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Before 2025</b>	20-70	80-130	150
<b>Going forward</b>	Up to 70	Up to 150	150

Further, we are expanding the definition of CPCs to include a variety of other professional activities, including:

- 1) Research** - contributing author to an article or book, serving on an IRB/REB, serving as a primary advisor on a student research project committee, platform or poster presentation, manuscript reviewer for a scientific journal
- 2) Leadership activities** - serving as a board member or committee member within a genetics organization
- 3) Teaching activities** - Teaching or coordinating graduate-level courses for GCs or providing educational outreach and continuing education for GCs
- 4) Post-graduate education** - related to a practice-based competency for GCs
- 5) Item-writing** for the CBGC certification exam

## **This is incredible! When do these changes go into effect?**

This new protocol is going into effect immediately and you can start collecting the new CPCs as of January 1, 2025.

**Life got complicated in the last ten years and I wasn't able to accrue enough CPCs or CECs. Will I lose my certification?**

We understand that life can be unpredictable. The CBGC board has created a new Hardship Extension Policy, which grants CCGCs an extra 90 days to accrue credits under specific circumstances. Specific details are in the Recertification Protocol but to be eligible for the extension, the GC must be in their recertification year, submit an email to the recertification committee detailing the nature of their hardship and provide a recertification application with a minimum of 120 credits (80% of the required 150 credits).

### **I am scared of being audited when I recertify! What does that process entail?**

Each recertification cycle, a small percentage of applications will be randomly selected for an audit. If you happen to be selected, you can expect an email 2-3 weeks after sending in your application informing you that you are being audited. For the audit, we will ask you to provide documentation to confirm your logbook details. This will include the 'proof of attendance' you selected when filling in your CEC logbook (ex. receipt, certificate of attendance) as well as a letter from your employer, confirming employment with the title indicated in your CPC logbook. This auditing process is an important and necessary safeguard that helps to ensure the validity of the recertification process. If you are selected, don't panic, it is a random selection! It will mean a few more papers to gather and send on, but if your CPC/CEC documentation is well organized, it should be a breeze.

### **Why can't we pay an annual recertification fee rather than pay once every ten years?**

Honestly? The reason is money.

While it would actually be quite helpful for our organization to have an influx of money annually as opposed to once a decade, the cost of updating the website to accommodate this change would be more than we can afford. Creating a system that could bill everyone annually, keep track of how many people have paid their annual fees and follow-up if people miss a year is substantial. For an organization that aims to keep certification and recertification costs as low as we can, this is not something we will likely be able to manage soon.

### **I still have questions about the new Recertification Protocol. Who can I contact?**



Feel free to email the recertification team at [recertification@cbgc-cccg.ca](mailto:recertification@cbgc-cccg.ca).

NEW RECERTIFICATION PROTOCOL

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### Prizes are awesome! Enter to win!!

To reward our newsletter readers, you can enter below to win CBGC swag that will be drawn at the end of 2025. You must be a CBGC member to win. Just click the button to fill in your form and enter to win!

And to answer your question...YES! You can re-enter the draw if you entered last quarter. Every time you read the newsletter is another chance to win!!

ENTER TO WIN CBGC GIFTS

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If you want your job posting, conference announcement or research recruitment email to go out to the 395 Canadian Certified Genetic Counsellors, visit the Reach Our Diplomates to submit your eBlast!

REACH OUR DIPLOMATES

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**Si vous préférez recevoir de futures bulletins en français, veuillez modifier vos préférences ci-dessous en cliquant « update your preferences ».**

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*Our mission: To protect the public and ensure quality of care by setting and maintaining certification standards, and to promote the value of Canadian board certified genetic counsellors.*

*Our vision: Setting the national standard for the provision and optimization of genetic counselling health services in Canada.*



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Conseil Canadien de Conseil Génétique

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