



**A Comparison of the Roles of the  
Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Canada  
(VRA Canada, “the Association”)  
and the  
College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals and  
Vocational Services (CVRP, “the College”)**



VRA Canada – The Association	CVRP – The College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An Association of Professional Members</b></li> <li>• <b>The Association exists to promote the profession and advocate for its members</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Registers and Certifies Professionals</b></li> <li>• <b>The College exists to protect the public</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>VRA Canada</b> represents the vocational profession and their interests through ongoing <b>professional development, political action</b> and <b>other tangible membership benefits</b></p>	<p><b>The College regulates the profession</b>  <b>The College ensures competency</b>  <b>The College</b> provides Independent Certification of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals and Vocational Service Professionals through application and examination process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an independent corporation and operates in a manner that befits and <b>meets the standards of Professional Colleges</b></li> <li>• The College is governed by a Board of Directors that represent the public and profession</li> <li>• The primary goal is to <b>protect the public</b> from incompetent and unqualified practitioners through independent certification standards</li> </ul>
<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Registered Rehabilitation Professional (RRP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Registered Vocational Professional (RVP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Registered Community Support Specialist (RCSS)</b></li> </ul> <p>These designations will continue to stand to accommodate stakeholders who use these designations as their standard requirement for employment</p>	<p><b>Certifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Master’s Certificate, Vocational Professional (MCVP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Certified Vocational Professional (CVP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Certified Vocational Specialist (CVS)</b></li> <li>• <b>Certified Disability Claims Advisor (CDCA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Certified Vocational Advisor (CVA)</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>The Association advocates on behalf of all of the members and to assist them in their professional goals</b></p>	<p><b>The College provides guidance, planning and approvals related to Certification and Advancement</b></p>
<p><b>The Association administers a prescriptive Code of Ethics</b></p>	<p><b>The College administers Ethical Discipline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>By maintaining the Code of Ethics and Best Practices</b></li> <li>• <b>By administering appropriate discipline on registrants</b></li> </ul>



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VRA Canada – The Association	CVRP – The College
<p><b>Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide professional and educational opportunities that support the designations and accreditations of the Association(s) and the College</li> </ul>	<p><b>Certification/Registration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the educational and experience criteria for entrance to the College</li> <li>Certification is awarded based on these specific criteria and a successful examination process</li> <li>Establish and administer the maintenance of certification requirements</li> <li>Accept CEU credits validating ongoing certification</li> <li>Recommend educational opportunities for advancement and for continuing education</li> <li>Provide guidance, planning and approvals related to Certification and Advancement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Professional Development</b> Provide professional development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminars, conferences,</li> <li>Journals, and newsletters</li> <li>Educational sources and programs</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Professional Advocacy</b> Build professional recognition for Vocational Rehabilitation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Government relationships at Federal and Provincial Levels</li> <li>Education           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build a continuum of education and professional development helping to build the recognition of the “Profession” ... <b>one of choice not chance</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>Employers</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance</li> <li>Job Postings</li> <li>Directory of Professionals</li> <li>Shared Best Practices</li> <li>Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The College is seeking Provincial and Federal Ministry Regulation</b></li> </ul>



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## Why Do I Need Both?

They are entirely different entities with different roles

**The Association:                      Is Voluntary!**

- **Serves the Members**
- **Provides the education and professional development** required by the College
- Is the voice of the profession
- Advocates with stakeholder groups, government and educational organizations
- Provides key services to ensure **recognition as a “Professional”** group
- Offers other services to members

**The College:                              Is Required for Certification!**

- **Protects the Public**
  - Sets the professional standards
  - Certifies
  - Disciplines
- 
- The ***Association’s designations will continue to stand*** to accommodate members and stakeholders who use these designations as their standard requirement for employment.
  - Association members who currently hold these designations can ***grandfather into the College*** until the deadline date of January 31, 2011. After this date, members and non-members must complete a full application and meet the College standards for eligibility to sit the examination for a specified certification level.