

 The College of Naturopaths of Ontario	Policy Type	COUNCIL POLICIES
	EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS	
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	Workplace Harassment	Page No. 1

The College of Naturopaths of Ontario is committed to providing a work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Workplace harassment, racism and/or discrimination will not be tolerated from any person in the workplace. The Council, through the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), is responsible for promoting a diverse workforce that is inclusive of everyone.

Definitions	Microaggression	Means an action or verbal message that intentionally – or more often unintentionally - conveys a stereotype, negative trait, or general insensitivity associated with someone’s race, gender, identity, sexual orientation, language abilities or other identity markers. It is a subtle jab that reminds someone that they are the “other” in some way. The more often microaggressions are heard, the bigger the impact they will have on a person’s well-being. For members of underrepresented groups, microaggressions can be a daily experience, forcing them to question whether they belong and creating anxiety about how others perceive them.
	Workplace Harassment	Means engaging in a course of vexatious comments or conduct that is known or ought to be known, to be unwelcome. It may include, but is not limited to, any of the following: a) unwelcome, offensive or objectionable conduct, b) making remarks, jokes or innuendos that demean, ridicule, intimidate or offend; displaying or circulating offensive pictures or materials in print or electronic form, c) bullying, d) offensive or intimidating phone calls or e-mails, and e) sexual harassment. Harassment may also relate to a form of discrimination as set out in the <i>Ontario Human Rights Code</i>, though it does not have to, including harassment based on, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, culture or other ideologies.
	Sexual Harassment	Means any unsolicited conduct, comment or physical contact of a sexual nature that is unwelcome by the recipient. It includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: a) unwelcome sexual advance (oral, written or physical), b) requests for sexual favours, c) unwelcome sexual or gender-related comments, innuendos, remarks, jokes or taunts, d) unnecessary physical contact such as patting, touching, pinching or hitting, e) displays of sexually degrading, offensive or derogatory materials such as graffiti or pictures, and f) sexual assault.

DATE APPROVED	DATE LAST REVISED
July 30, 2013	September 24, 2025

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Accordingly, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall not fail to perform any of the following duties and responsibilities.

- 1 Take whatever steps are reasonable to ensure that the workplace is free from harassment and/or microaggressions and promotes diversity and inclusivity.
- 2 Ensure that all workers are educated about and uphold this policy.
- 3 Ensure that all workers collaborate to prevent workplace harassment and/or microaggressions and promote diversity and inclusivity.
- 4 Develop and maintain a Workplace Harassment Prevention Program, acceptable to the Council, which implements this policy including but not limited to measures and procedures to protect workers from harassment and/or microaggressions and a process for workers to report incidents or raise concerns.
- 5 Ensure that this policy and the supporting program are implemented and maintained and that all workers have the appropriate information and instruction to protect them from workplace harassment and/or microaggressions.
- 6 Ensure that all workers adhere to this policy and the supporting program and that every worker is encouraged to raise any concerns about workplace harassment and/or microaggressions and to report any incidents.
- 7 Investigate and deal with all incidents and complaints of workplace harassment and/or microaggression in a timely and fair manner, respecting the privacy of all concerned to the extent it is possible.

This policy is not intended to limit or constrain the reasonable exercise of management functions in the workplace. Nothing in this policy prevents or discourages a worker from filing an application with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (or any successor agency) on a matter related to Ontario's Human Rights Code¹. A worker also retains the right to exercise any other legal avenues that may be available.

¹ Please refer to section 34 of the Ontario Human Rights Code for provisions surrounding timing of the filing of an application for review by the Tribunal.

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