

SEPTEMBER 2021

UPDATE



OCTOBER 4

The renewal process for 2022 licences opens.

NOVEMBER 10

Voting opens for three Council members. Nominating details will be posted on cpsnl.ca.

DECEMBER 1

Voting for Council membership closes.

DECEMBER 11

Q4 Council meeting
8:30 a.m.
CPSNL offices

2021 Q3 COUNCIL MEETING

Council held its third-quarter meeting on September 14, delayed three days by Hurricane Larry. Council and staff members attended both in person and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Dr. Tanis Adey, the recently appointed College Registrar (her term begins on December 1) also attended as a College Council guest.

An interesting and informative Council session was held on Friday evening, September 10, at which Dr. Adey presented her general vision for continuing College work.

Council meeting highlights follow.

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Complaints:** Action and statistics related to the four meetings of the Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC) and two Tribunal hearings that were held in the second quarter were reviewed.
- **Licensing:** Statistics for the first half of 2021 and a progress report on the technical improvements being made for the 2022 licensing renewal process were presented and discussed.
- **Quality:** Information about the reviews that the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) administered during the 2021 second quarter was presented, along with information related to the expansion of quality-improvement programming. There are currently 13 open cases being overseen by the QAC and the Council's Quality division.

UPDATES PROVIDED

- **Supervision / oversight of provisionally licensed physicians:** The protocols for supervision will be reviewed in 2022. A supervision/oversight fee was introduced on September 1, 2021. This fee is paid by supervised physicians to

the College, who pays physician supervisors.

- **New website:** After much work, the revised **cpsnl.ca** was posted live on **September 17**. Changes were made in appearance, navigation, content, and in how the site operates technically. Adjustments will continue over the coming months.
- **Online Physician Portal:** Accessed through cpsnl.ca, this portal received major attention during the website update. Improvements were made to navigation, functionality, and the number of administrative items available to College registrants. The ability to **access Certificates of Professional Conduct applications** should be added by **this November**.
- **Financial matters:** The College cash flow statements (as of July 31, 2021) were provided to Council for information. The **2022 fee schedule** was also reviewed; full details can be found on cpsnl.ca.
- **Additional discussions:** Council was provided with the status of the **Operations Plan Q2 2021** and with the College **Risk and Risk-Mitigation Register**. J. Osmond provided an update on the Practice Ready Assessment (**PRA-NL**) program offered by MUN's Faculty of Medicine, Office of Professional and Educational Development. Details of the launch of **PPR-NL** were also presented (see details on next page). In addition, Council approved the College's Strategic Directions and Priorities for 2022.

LICENSING TEST RUN

DID YOU KNOW? Each fall, a few Council members volunteer to renew their licences as a trial run—to check and provide feedback about new improvements to the process, before renewal opens to all members.

PPR-NL LAUNCHED

Peer review is vitally important to medical self-regulation. Our province's *Medical Act, 2011*, requires practising physicians to participate in a peer-review program.

The goal of peer review is to ensure that physicians practise safely and competently in a manner that is acceptable to the profession. Peer review can also identify potential areas for improving practices, even those that meet or exceed established standards.

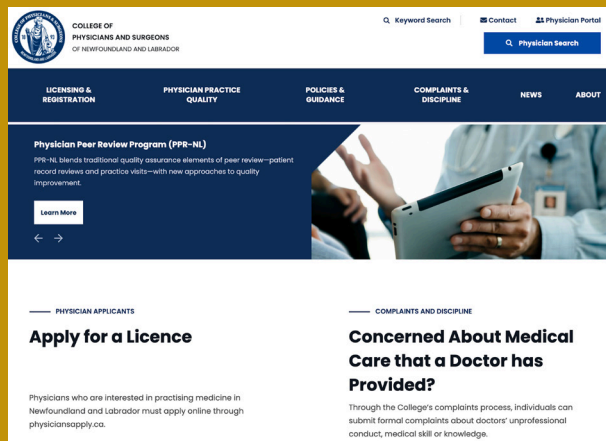
Physician Peer Review (PPR-NL) is the College's new peer review program. It blends traditional quality assurance elements of peer review—patient record reviews and practice visits—with new approaches to facilitating physicians' quality-improvement efforts. It is designed to help physicians focus their own professional development efforts on what will most benefit their patients and practices.

PPR-NL launched assessments in June this year, with an intentionally conservative launch (15 reviews) and scope of physicians involved (community-based Family Physicians). This initial cohort of reviews will help the College understand and assess how physicians may view the principles and mechanics of the process and allow the College to increase operational capacity. The program will expand first to facility-based Family Physicians and then to Specialists.

COVID-19 AND PHYSICIANS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The College reminds physicians that they must not make comments or provide advice—informally, in person, or on social media—that support or encourage the public to act contrary to public health orders and recommendations. **When offering opinions**, physicians must be guided by the law,

TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW CPSNL.CA



regulatory standards, and the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. **Please read the September 15 Notice to Members** and act accordingly.

POLICY PAPER: CULTURAL SAFETY

“The College’s Commitment to Cultural Safety,” a policy paper to direct how to better provide **culturally safe health care to Indigenous patients** in this province, has been under development for some months. **Look for its release** on September 30, 2021, Canada’s National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

THANKS TO THE OUTGOING REGISTRAR

At its Q3 meeting, Council expressed its sincere appreciation for the leadership of Dr. Inkpen in her seven years as the Registrar of CPSNL.

“The College has seen significant improvements in its programs and services over this period,” noted Chair Gail Hamilton, “and all while being fiscally prudent.” Dr. Inkpen’s role in developing a strong team at the executive level was also highly commended.

REASONS TO BECOME A COUNCIL MEMBER

Do you have a passion for medicine and ensuring its professional standards are upheld? Are you committed to protecting and serving the public interest and looking to get involved in your

profession in a meaningful way? Then consider putting your name forward for one of the three CPSNL Council seats coming available. A formal call for nominations will be issued on October 20.

Mandate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

“The College is authorized to regulate the practice of medicine and the medical profession in the public interest.”

As established by the *Medical Act, 2011*