

JUNE 2021 UPDATE



SUMMER HOURS

8:30 – 4:00

June 1 to September 7

SEPTEMBER 11

Q3 Council Meeting

8:30 a.m.

CPSNL offices

2021 Q2 COUNCIL MEETING

Council held what it hopes was one of the last entirely virtual quarterly meetings on June 19. All members attended remotely. Highlights follow.

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Complaints:** Action and statistics related to three 2021 meetings of the Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC) were reviewed. A new internal operational process is now up and running, which will provide **more detailed reporting on Complaints trends and outcomes**. College Corporate Counsel/Director of Complaints E. Bruce also updated Council on the Adjudication Tribunal Hearing held in December 2020.
- **Licensing:** Associate Registrar J. Osmond presented information on a **review of the 2021 licensing process**, the goal of which is to identify changes needed for 2022.
- **Quality Assurance:** B. Bennett, Director of Quality, gave updates on the 12 active physician files that the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) is managing (**7 involve physician wellness and 5 involve clinical competency**) as well as the status of the new PPR-NL peer review program (see next page).

UPDATES PROVIDED

- **Privacy:** The College is currently developing an enterprise-level **privacy program**. Preliminary jurisdictional consultations have been held and work continues.
- **Public Health Misinformation:** This issue is a topic of national concern for many regulatory bodies—health-related and non-health-related. Statements issued by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, British

Columbia, and Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as an excerpt from a 2021 Legal Counsel Paper on this topic by Bryan E. Salte, were provided for Council members' information.

- **Operational Activities:** The achievement of 2021 Operational Plan milestones was noted and the Risk Register and Strategies were given their quarterly review.

Financial, Governance, and additional updates were also provided and discussed. The annual performance evaluations of the Registrar, Council, and Committees were also reviewed.

2021 AGM

Registrar Linda Inkpen gave her final annual report at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, which was held following the second-quarter College Council meeting on June 19. Details of the College's activities are in the 2020 Annual Report, now available on cpsnl.ca. At the meeting, Chartered Professional Accountants Noseworthy Chapman were appointed College auditors for 2021.

COLLEGE STAFF ARE RETURNING TO THE OFFICE

Barring unforeseen pandemic developments, College staff return to onsite work on July 5, 2021.

The experience of the past 15 months has demonstrated much about our resilience and adaptability—and also that remote work can be highly productive. The College plans on incorporating what we've learned about how we work into our ongoing operations. We also created a COVID-19 Pandemic response document—a resource for the future.

NEW MEDICAL-TRANSPORT MOU SIGNED: NS & NL

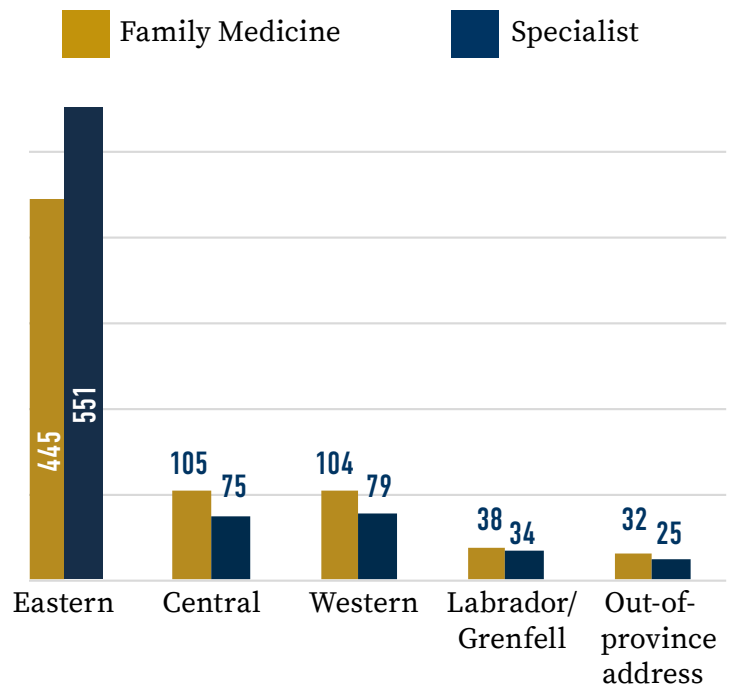
The College of Physicians and Surgeons NL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with its Nova Scotia regulatory counterpart on April 23, 2021, in regard to medical transport.

The initiative was conceived as a response to the “pressing public interest in ensuring the availability of medical transport and associated physician services” when patients are being transferred from one province to the other.

Under this MOU, a physician who holds a licence from either the CPSNL or the CPSNS can now provide medical transport services between the two provinces without having to be licensed in both.

The agreement will be effective for an initial three years; there are provisions for both amendment and termination.

2020 MDS BY LICENCE TYPE & PRACTICE ADDRESS



IN COLLEGE NEWS

PPR-NL LAUNCHED

The new Physician Peer Review program (PPR-NL) officially launched in the final week of May. It has currently recruited seven Family Medicine assessors who will act as the initial peer reviewers. They received their initial training earlier in May.

CODE OF ETHICS

Council approved an update to College By-Law 5 at its June meeting: its Code of Ethics. This update aligned content and wording with other College terminology, departments, and Standards of Practice or Practice Guidelines that have been developed since By-Law 5 was last revised/written. It is scheduled to be examined again in 2026.

MCC QUALIFYING EXAMS: CHANGE

The effect of the pandemic on Part 2 of the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Qualifying Exams took a toll on medical learners—they were unable to obtain an MCC Licentiate. This has been a matter of concern for them, but also for faculties of medicine and medical regulatory bodies across the country.

Consequently, the Medical Council of Canada announced on June 10 that it is **stepping away from delivery of the MCCQE Part 2 immediately**.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons NL will accept the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) designation based on the new criteria. Registrants and applicants who are now eligible to obtain the LMCC should contact the MCC (see mcc.ca).

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*