

DECEMBER 2021

UPDATE



JANUARY 15

FINAL DEADLINES

2022 Licences
to Practise Medicine

2022 Professional Medical
Corporation Renewal

MARCH 12

Q1 Council meeting
8:30 a.m.
CPSNL offices

2021 Q4 COUNCIL MEETING

Council held its fourth and final 2021 quarterly meeting on December 11 at the College offices. Council and staff members attended either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams. Two newly elected members of Council (St. John's/Mount Pearl) attended the meeting—Dr. Kara Laing and Dr. Dianne Keating Power—as well as Dr. Robert Forsey, who was returned to Council in the recent elections.

Meeting highlights follow.

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Complaints:** A single meeting of the Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC) was held in Q3. Council was provided with a Complaints Report and an update on Adjudication Tribunal hearings and Appeals to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **Licensing:** The licensing report noted that 1,548 physicians were eligible for renewal to practise medicine in NL in 2022. See page 2 for further licensing reminders.
- **Quality:** The Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) met once in the third quarter. There remain 13 open cases that are being overseen by the QAC and Quality division. The Physician Practice Review Program (PPR-NL) continues to evolve. A substantive increase in physician practice assessments is planned for 2022.
- **Finance & Compensation:** Building on the strategic planning session held in September 2021, the Operations Plan identified key performance indicators for the

coming year. The 2022 Budget was also presented and approved.

- **Governance:** The Governance Committee met in November 2021 to review the evaluation templates for the Registrar, Council Chair, and Council members and committees. Evaluations are completed in March of each year, then collated and presented to Council at the June Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Discipline Panel:** Replacing former chair (now Registrar) Dr. Tanis Adey, **Dr. Amer Qureshi**, FRCPC, was appointed chair. Dr. Qureshi has been a panel member and served on several Adjudication Tribunals.
- Ms. Gail Hamilton and Dr. Rebecca Rudofsky will continue as **Council Chair** and **Vice-Chair**, respectively. The makeup of all committees of Council for the coming year was also reviewed and approved.

UPDATES PROVIDED

- **Practice-Ready Assessments:** A second cohort has now entered this program.
- **College Collaborations:** Council was advised about College participation in—and issues discussed during—regular meetings of related organizations, including the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) and the NL Health Regulators Network.

DID YOU KNOW?

The College's Conflict of Interest Statement is reviewed at the start of each Council meeting. If any conflicts are noted, the staff or Council member involved is recused during related discussions.

COUNCIL ELECTION: OUR THANKS

As noted on page 1, three physicians have been elected to Council. The College Council thanks everyone who nominated a physician and/or put themselves forward this fall, and we continue to encourage all physicians to take an interest and participate in College work as opportunities arise.

FURTHER NOTES ABOUT LICENCES

Two reminders: As a condition of obtaining a Licence to Practise Medicine in NL, physicians must join a national certifying college (either the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) for CME/CPD purposes, provide proof of membership, and remain compliant with program requirements.

Nationally and in this province, licensing standards continue to evolve. We therefore also remind physicians already practising here—and those contemplating doing so—to visit cpsnl.ca regularly and to read all College *Notices to Members* so that you stay abreast of changes to licensing standards, both current and anticipated.



Our warm
best wishes
to CPSNL physicians
and your families
for a safe and happy
New Year.

CPSNL office closure:
Dec. 24 to Jan. 3
inclusive.*

*College phone and emails will be monitored.

COVID-19: A REMINDER ABOUT VACCINE MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Several pandemic issues still require ongoing College management—for physicians, for our staff, and for the public we serve. The College continues to receive phone calls, emails, and written correspondence in response to particular COVID-19 issues, especially policies about vaccine medical exemptions.

The College reminds physicians that they are expected to follow the National

Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations for COVID vaccine medical exemptions.

We would like to re-emphasize, as well, that the College is not the author of vaccine medical exemption policies. We rely on bodies composed of informed and recognized Canadian experts, in this case NACI, to determine immunization policy.

FOR MORE ABOUT THE NACI POLICY AND ITS EXEMPTION GUIDELINES, SEE
[RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE USE OF COVID-19 VACCINES](#)

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.”