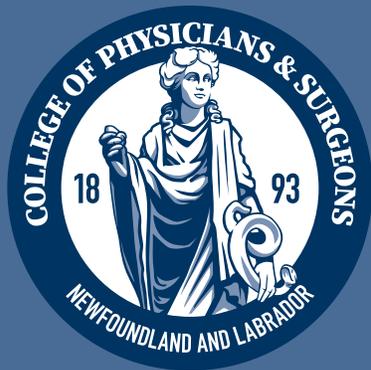


MARCH 2022

# UPDATE



JUNE 18

CPSNL  
Q2 Council Meeting  
8:30 a.m.

\*

CPSNL  
Annual General  
Meeting  
1:30 p.m.

Both meetings at  
120 Torbay Road  
St. John's, NL

## 2022 Q1 COUNCIL MEETING

Council held its first quarterly meeting of the year on March 12 at the College offices. Council and staff members attended in person or virtually. Meeting highlights follow.

### REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Professional Conduct:** Council was provided with a summary of files handled in 2021 and some trends they revealed. **The College received 103 complaints last year, a record.** Those involving professionalism increased and were driven primarily by communication issues. Several physicians were cautioned for practising without a licence because they failed to renew their licence on time. Updates on Adjudication Tribunal hearings and ongoing Appeals to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador were also provided. The Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC) held 11 meetings in 2021.
- **Licensing:** This report informed Council that **1,451 of the 1,548 physicians eligible to renew** their licences had done so as of February 8, 2022. Forty-three physicians incurred an administrative loss of their licence because they failed to renew by the legislated January 15, 2022, deadline. In addition, 61 licensed physicians notified the College that they would not be renewing their licence. By the deadline, 575 of the 596 licensed Professional

### FROM COMPLAINTS TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The College's Complaints Department has been officially renamed the Professional Conduct Department, to align its title with terminology used by other regulatory bodies across the country.

Medical Corporations had renewed.

- **Quality:** To date, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has met once in 2022. Council was informed that the QAC and Quality Division is currently overseeing 15 open cases. The Physician Peer Review Program (PPR-NL), launched last year, initiated **a new cohort of 50 PPR-NL reviews** of family physicians in January 2022.
- **Governance:** Council was informed that **13 College Standards or Guidelines are up for review in 2022.** The Governance Committee will bring its recommendations for these policies to Council at the June and December Council meetings.

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### IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2023 LICENCE RENEWAL

Beginning with 2023 applications, all physicians applying to renew their Licence to Practise Medicine must acknowledge that they are *compliant* with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements. *Enrolment alone will no longer be sufficient.*

## BALANCING VIRTUAL CARE WITH IN-PERSON CARE

The College has received several reports from patients and community members about physician use of virtual care *to the exclusion of in-person care*. The reports suggest incidents are occurring in which physicians have failed to conduct examinations that can be done only in-person (pap tests, for example).

The College reminds physicians that it supports virtual care as a valuable tool,

but that all physicians must comply with the College's Standard of Practice for Virtual Care.

This Standard requires physicians to consider their patients' existing health status, as well as their healthcare needs and circumstances, and provide virtual care only if that approach is in the patients' best interest.

... Q1 Council meeting report, cont.

- **Finance and Audit:** Council was provided with highlights of the February 25 meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee.

### UPDATES PROVIDED

- **Privacy:** The development of a privacy framework for the College is ongoing. The College's Privacy Officer is consulting on projects and programming as needed.
- **Security:** A cyber security and vulnerability assessment was completed for the College in December 2021. Action items identified in the report are being prioritized and **work is underway to address identified items**.



### IN COLLEGE NEWS

#### IMPROVING OUR LICENSING PROCESS . . .

In keeping with our goals for continuous quality improvement, the College has engaged an external consultant to support a **LEAN exercise on existing licensing procedures**. This initiative will help the College identify ways to improve efficiencies and optimize licensing operations. It is aligned with two of the Licensing and Registration 2022 Strategic Priorities: Improve Data Collection and Reporting, and Continue Standardization of Licensing Documents and Communications.

#### . . . AND OUR UNDERSTANDING

At the March 12 Council meeting, Council was advised that the NL Health Regulators Network will host an education session for health regulator board members, committees, and staff: **“Introduction to Trauma-Informed Practice for Regulators.”**

The speaker, Myrna McCallum, is a Métis lawyer from Green Lake in Treaty Six territory and the host of “The Trauma-Informed Lawyer” podcast.

The College's Council members and Leadership Team are invited to attend the April 19 event.

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