

JUNE 2022

UPDATE



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
June 1 to September 5

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SEPTEMBER 17

Q3 Council meeting
CPSNL offices
8:30 a.m.

2022 Q2 COUNCIL MEETING

The College Council held its second quarterly meeting on the morning of June 18, 2022. It was followed by the College's annual general meeting. College Council, staff, and members attended in person and virtually. The Council meeting highlights are summarized below.

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Professional Conduct:** Dr. O. Howell provided an update of the activities of the Professional Conduct Department. E. Bruce provided updates on Adjudication Tribunal hearings and ongoing Appeals to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **Licensing:** J. Osmond presented the Licensing Report and advised Council about the events of a Lean process review workshop that focused on aspects of the College's licensing operations.
- **Risk & Risk Strategies:** Council was provided with the current Risk Register.
- **PPR-NL:** B. Bennett reported that the College launched an additional 50 reviews of randomly selected physicians under the new program. Two peer reviewers—Dr. Marie O'Dea and Dr. Heidi Carew—have been engaged by the College and trained to conduct the assessments. More information about the assessment process will be circulated to members in the near future.
- **Finance and Audit:** Council was provided with highlights of the April 29 and June 3 meetings of the Finance and Audit Committee.
- **Governance:** Several Standards of Practice/Practice Guidelines under review by the Governance Committee were presented for Council action. See next page for details.

RECAPPING 2021

The College's 2021 annual report, presented at the AGM, is available to read or download on cpsnl.ca.



- **“Responding to the Pandemic”:** E. Bruce noted that this report by Rebecca Durcan, which captures medical regulators' reflections about their responses to and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, was provided to Council members (for their information) at the request of the Governance Committee, who noted that many of the observations in it were consistent with the College's pandemic experience.

UPDATES PROVIDED

- **Quality:** O. Howell updated Council about the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) meeting held on June 2. He noted that the College is in a strategic partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) on a new Memorandum of Understanding guiding the assessment and monitoring of College members whose fitness

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... Q1 Council meeting report, cont.

to practise has raised concerns. B. Bennett advised Council that the QAC is currently managing 14 case files.

- **Licensing:** Chair G. Hamilton updated Council on issues under discussion by the Licensing Committee, including licensing standards and currency of practice. In addition, E. Bruce presented an updated Terms of Reference for the Licensing Committee, which Council approved.
- **Operations Plan:** J. Osmond gave Council an update on progress with the 2022 Plan. A need for prioritizing activities for staff in response to increased workloads was identified.

UPDATES TO STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES

At the June 18 Council meeting, Council took the following actions:

- **APPROVED** the amended Standard of Practice **Accepting New Patients**
- **APPROVED** the amended Standard of Practice **Professional Responsibilities in Medical Education**
- **APPROVED** the amended Standard of Practice **Medical Assistance in Dying**
- **APPROVED** the new Practice Guideline **Opioid Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder** (it replaces two existing Practice Guidelines: **Suboxone for Opioid Dependence** and **Methadone Maintenance Treatment**)
- **REPEALED** the Practice Guideline: **Medical Marijuana**. College members should follow the expected standard of practice in prescribing this medication.

All Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines are posted on cpsnl.ca.

IN COLLEGE NEWS

CONSULTING ABOUT DATABASE MANAGEMENT

As part of ongoing evaluation and discussions about the future of the College's registrant management database, staff participated in a **consultation meeting with other Colleges** in late June. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba hosted the discussion, in which concerns and solutions were shared.

MEETING WITH ATLANTIC COUNTERPARTS

After a long hiatus, a meeting of the Atlantic Canadian medical regulators took place in Halifax in April. The **wide range of topics discussed** included:

- licensing standards
- practice ready assessments
- quality assurance and quality improvement
- complaints
- equity, diversity, and inclusion

Registrars from the four Atlantic provinces also discussed **opportunities for alignment** among Atlantic medical regulatory authorities with respect to documents such as Certificate of Professional Conduct, Standards of Practice, and Practice Guidelines.

ON OUR RADAR

LEARNING HOW TO BE—AND WORK—BETTER

Several College staff members and a Council representative travelled to Quebec City in June, to attend the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) annual meeting and conference. This year's theme was: **Eradicating Indigenous-Specific and Other Forms of Racism and Discrimination / Creating a Safe Regulatory Environment for Patients**.

The educational objectives of the conference program included motivating participants to commit to "further **considering the particular responsibilities of MRAs** in addressing Indigenous-specific and other forms of racism and discrimination in the work that they do to protect the public." The sessions provided excellent input for reflection, as well as inspiration for how the College can further its own goals of supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion in its work and practices.

The 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*