

OCTOBER 2022

# UPDATE



## OCTOBER 17

2023 Licence Renewal period begins

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## OCTOBER 19

Call for nominations for four Council seats

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## NOVEMBER 9

Voting opens for Council elections; how-to-vote details will be emailed to members eligible to vote

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## DECEMBER 10

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

# 2022 Q3 COUNCIL MEETING

The College Council held its third-quarter meeting on September 17, 2022. Council and staff members attended in person and virtually (two Council members sent apologies). Meeting highlights are summarized below.

## REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Professional Conduct:** E. Bruce updated Council on the progress being made to more efficiently process, investigate, and render decisions on professional conduct complaints and noted that 2022 has been **particularly busy** as staff dealt with new complaints as well as the increased number in 2021 (see graph on page 2).
- **Licensing & Registration:** In presenting this department's report (covering Q2), J. Osmond advised that work is ongoing specific to **data validation and improved reporting**, to create an ever-clearer picture of the current licensing situation and trends.
- **Operations Plan:** J. Osmond provided an update on progress vis-à-vis the College's 2022 Operations Plan, noting that some **items were deferred** during Q2 due to a shift in priorities and competing demands.
- **Finance & Audit:** G. Hamilton provided Council with highlights of the August 25 meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee and the revised 2022 Budget that resulted from it. She also presented the projected budget for the coming year and the 2023 licensing fees proposed by the committee (see next page).
- **Information Management:** J. Osmond reported on the Cyber Security Assessment, initiated a year ago. **Action is occurring** on four key areas: database security, backup retention solutions, vendor access management, and staff education and training.
- **Practice Quality:** O. Howell conveyed highlights of the August 25 meeting of the Quality Assurance Committee and B. Bennett reported on the files under active management. The Council was also briefed on the administration of the Physician Peer Review program (PPR-NL).

## REVIEWS & DISCUSSION

- **Risk & Risk Strategies:** J. Osmond presented Council with an updated Risk Register.
- **PPR-NL:** Council was briefed on the peer reviews conducted to date and the challenges and opportunities associated with

... continued on p. 2

## DO YOU HAVE TIME TO RUN FOR A COUNCIL SEAT?

Elections for four seats on Council will take place over the coming months. Two positions are available for medical practitioners who live in or practise medicine in the St. John's / Mount Pearl area, and two for those who live in or practise elsewhere in the province. If you have a desire to contribute your thoughts and energy to the oversight of your College, please follow the nomination details (to be emailed to College members on October 19).

... Q3 Council meeting report, cont.

**expanding the scope of the program** beyond community-based Family Physicians.

- **Licensing Pressures:** The current shortage of physicians in this province has required the College to review licensing standards and optimize processes. The College strives to collaborate with stakeholders to be part of the solution to the current provincial health care crisis while continuing to deliver on its mandate of public protection. Council was briefed on the **stakeholder meetings, pressures, and solutions** being investigated. Council was also reminded that any changes made to ease the crisis must be done in ways that fulfill the College's responsibility to ensure that the physicians the College licenses have the necessary education, competencies, and experience to provide safe and quality medical care to the people of this province.

### APPROVED FOR ACTION

- The revised 2022 **Budget** and proposed **2023 licensing fees**.
- The **2023 Strategic Direction & Priorities Plan**, which will be updated following a two-day Strategic Direction Planning workshop to be held early in 2023.
- New **Rules of Procedure** for the College's Disciplinary Panel. Council members agreed that the new rules were "appropriate to assist in ensuring a just, expeditious, and cost-effective determination of complaints."
- Henceforth, the College Registrar's title will be "**CEO and Registrar**."

#### IN COLLEGE NEWS

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMING INTO FOCUS

In 2020, the College created a new committee of Council. The Public Engagement Committee held its inaugural meeting soon after, then put its activities on hold in response to the shift in priorities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It recently reconvened and put forward to

## CHANGES TO LICENSING POLICIES

Council's Licensing and Registration Committee recently updated three policies:

- **Currency of Practice:** Updating the minimum required currency for applicants
- **Specialty Practice Licence Transition:** Applies to previously licensed specialists
- **Education Registrant GP Locum:** Criteria for education registrants in a post-graduate specialty training program at Memorial

Full details of these policies are available on the website under News: Notices to Members.

Council recommendations for potential areas of action.

### 2023 LICENCE FEES

At the Q3 Council meeting, the fee structure was approved for the coming year. The fee categories include:

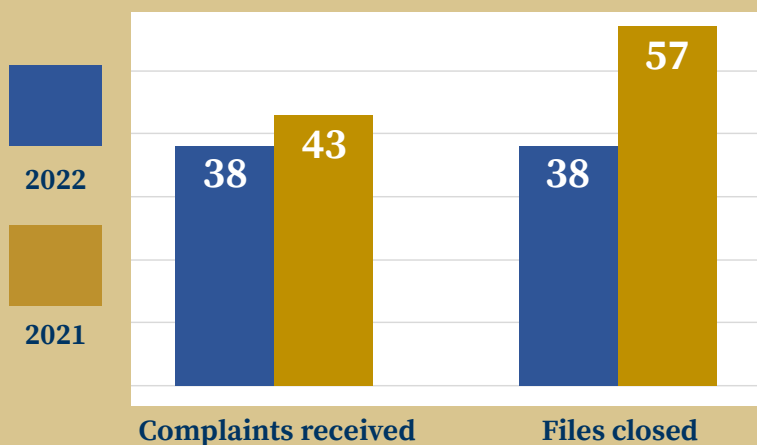
Annual Licence to Practise: \$2,000

Professional Medical Corporation: \$250

### LEARNING HOW TO BE—AND WORK—BETTER

College Council and staff will participate in a special workshop in December to support and enhance their awareness and performance in the area of **unconscious bias**. The training will be delivered by ethree Consulting.

### COMPLAINTS SNAPSHOT: END OF Q2



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*