

SEPTEMBER 2023

UPDATE



NOVEMBER 1

2024 Licence Renewal period begins.

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OCTOBER 18

Nomination period opens for one available seat on College Council. Nominations close Nov. 3.

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NOVEMBER 8

Voting period for vacant Council seat opens. Voting closes Dec. 1.

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DECEMBER 9

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

Q3 COUNCIL MEETING

Highlights of the College Council's third-quarter meeting, held at the College offices on September 9, 2023, are presented below.

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Professional Conduct:** O. Howell noted that three Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC) meetings were held in Q2 and that although the number of complaints has doubled compared with last year, the time frame for case closure is holding at 12 months. E. Bruce asked for Council input on the new Frequently Asked Questions (for complainants and physicians). O. Howell brought forward four systemic issues identified by the CAC in its investigation of complaints. Council discussed appropriate College action regarding these issues.
- **Licensing and Registration:** G. Hamilton reported on the previous three meetings of this committee (June through August), noting that the department has been kept busy by the complexities of the two new licence types recently introduced. J. Osmond presented licensing statistics to July 31. He noted a 34 percent increase in applications received over the same period in 2022, which added pressure to improve processing times and customer service.
- **Finance and Audit:** G. Hamilton provided Council with an update from the August 25 meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee and Financial Statements as of July 31. C. Lee added that revenue is up from the same time last year due to an increase in licence applications.
- **Quality Assurance:** O. Howell reported that there were two QAC

Increasing
public engagement
on cpsnl.ca

The College's website now has a "For the Public" page, which features sections where people can access the College's public register of physicians, know what they should expect of a physician, understand how to make a complaint—and have a way to pay a physician a compliment. Check it out [here](#).

meetings during the summer and that the QAC is managing 14 active cases.

NEWS, REVIEWS, DISCUSSION

- **Strategic Operational Priorities:** Based on the recently developed Strategic Plan (see sidebar page 2), T. Adey gave an overview of the short- and long-term strategic operational priorities. They will be used to create the 2024 Operational Plan, to be presented at the 2023 fourth-quarter Council meeting.
- **NLMA Physician Care Network (PCN):** An MOU has been signed regarding the Physician Care Network. O. Howell outlined that, under the MOU, the QAC will no longer review details of physician health issues and will take recommendations regarding physicians' ability to safely practise medicine from the PCN.
- **Complaints:** O. Howell noted that a new Complaints Process flow chart aimed at clarifying the steps for the public is now posted on [cpsnl.ca](#).
- **2023 Licence Renewal Process:** J. Osmond presented the changes to the 2024 renewal process and the key dates, reminding Council that

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... 2023 Q3 Council Meeting, cont.

this year's renewal will also encompass inclusion on the Atlantic Registry and a questionnaire about virtual care.

- **The Atlantic Registry:** Since its implementation on May 1, T. Adey noted that the resources required to process applications for this Registry have exceeded expectations.
- **2023 Budget:** G. Hamilton highlighted that this year's budget is on target and projections remain favourable. Council approved the Revised Budget, as put forward by the Finance and Audit Committee.

APPROVED FOR ACTION

- Council approved amendments to **four Standards of Practice:**
 - Conflict of Interest (2023)
 - Withdrawal of Physician Services During Job Action (2023)
 - Medical/Surgical Procedures in Private Medical Facilities (2023)
 - Medical Assistance in Dying (2023)
- Council approved amendments to **one Practice Guideline:**
 - Physician Use of Social Media (2023)
- Council also approved draft versions of two Standards of Practice, to be sent out for consultation with physicians and stakeholders (see summary below).

SEEKING YOUR INPUT ON TWO STANDARDS

We welcome College members' opinions as we assess expectations of physicians on the topics of **Medical Records Documentation and Management** and **Prescribing and Dispensing Medications**. Your input will inform these Standards of Practice and ensure they reflect current practice issues, embody the duties of medical professionalism, and are consistent with the College's mandate to act in the public interest. To provide input, members can complete the short surveys available through the following links:

- [Medical Records Documentation and Management](#)
- [Prescribing and Dispensing of Medications](#)

Alternatively, you can email your input to consultation@cpsnl.ca. **The consultation period closes on October 23, 2023.**

2024 Licence Fees

The 2024 fee structure was approved at the Q3 Council meeting. Licence fee categories include Annual Licence to Practice (\$2,300) and Professional Medical Corporation (\$300).

What lies ahead?

For an overview of the College's Strategic Plan for the next five years, see cpsnl.ca.



IS IT YOUR TIME TO RUN FOR COLLEGE COUNCIL?

An election for one seat on Council will take place this Fall. The available seat is for a **medical practitioner who lives in or practises medicine outside of St. John's and Mount Pearl** (technically, "remainder of the province"). Do you have a desire to contribute your thoughts and energy to the oversight of your College? **Nomination details will be emailed to all College members** in early October.

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*