

JANUARY 2024

UPDATE



2024 JANUARY 15

FINAL LICENCE RENEWAL DEADLINE

All licences not
renewed for 2024
expire January 15

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MARCH 9

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



*Wishing you
all the best in 2024*

2023 Q4 COUNCIL MEETING

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

REPORTS PRESENTED

- **Professional Conduct:**
O. Howell reported an **increase in complaints in 2023** and projected a total of 110 to 115 complaints by year's end (in 2022 there were 82). Internal process efficiencies, including consensual early resolution processes, have resulted in **fewer complaints requiring review by the Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC)**. As of October 31, 2023, **87 complaint files had been closed** (a total of 80 were closed by the end of 2022). E. Bruce noted that the recent meeting of Medical Regulatory Authority (MRA) counsels and the Canadian Medical Protective Association that she attended was beneficial for **nationwide relationship building**.
- **Licensing and Registration:**
J. Osmond presented licensing statistics to October 31, noting an **increase in the applications** for a Licence to Practice Medicine; also, 42 more new annual licences have been issued than were issued by the same date in 2022. He noted that licence **renewals were exceeding the 2023 numbers** and advised that the renewal process should be even more efficient when the new membership management system is operational in 2024.
- **Finance and Audit:**
G. Hamilton provided Council with financial statements. C. Lee highlighted key points and the positive projection for the 2023 year end. The **College Budget 2024 was presented and accepted**.
- **Quality:** O. Howell noted that **13 quality case management files are currently open**. The **Physician Peer Review–Newfoundland and Labrador (PPR–NL) program is under review** to ensure that it fulfills the criteria set by the *Medical Act, 2011* and that it is resource efficient. T. Adey reported that a **Quality Planning Day** was held in November. The goal of the session, facilitated by Jess Chapman of ethree Consulting, was to agree on the mandate and scope of the College's Quality function and determine areas of intersection with other lines of College business as well

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... 2024 Q4 Council Meeting, cont.

as Quality priorities for the coming one to three years that will align with the College's newly developed Strategic Plan. Plans are being made to hold similar strategic planning days for other departments. Additionally, because physician wellness is a priority for the College, **wellness resources for physicians will be posted on the College website**, including a link to the NLMA's Physician Care Network.

- **College Operations:** In his summary, J. Osmond reported that **cyber security remains a priority** for the College and an external review will start in January 2024. The planned membership management database is now being piloted and is intended to be fully operational by the end of 2024.
- **Governance Committee:** T. Adey reviewed the governance best practices presented at a September Council education session. It was noted that while College governance is on strong footing, Council approved for implementation seven governance best practice principles to further strengthen it. It was also noted that **Council members and staff have completed a respectful workplace course** offered through ethree Consulting.

NEWS, REVIEWS, DISCUSSION

- **Strategic Operational Priorities 2024:** T. Adey reported that **Strategic Operational Priorities have been set** that align with the College's Strategic Plan 2023–2028. These operational priorities will be included in Council and Committee meeting documents to highlight the areas of focus of each department.

JOIN OUR TEAM?

The College is seeking a full-time
Deputy Registrar.

Application deadline: January 12, 2024.

For details, see cpsnl.ca.

- **CAC complaints referral:** The College will prepare a letter for Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services in regard to one complaint under review by the CAC, which outlines **systemic concerns**.

APPROVED FOR ACTION

- Council approved **updates to By-Law 1 (Election of Members of Council) and the Governance Committee's Terms of Reference** to reflect a new process for filling a vacancy on Council when no nominations for election are received.
- Council approved **two revised Standards of Practice:** They were **Medical Records Documentation & Management (2023)** and **Prescribing & Dispensing of Medications (2023)**. Both are available for review on cpsnl.ca. FAQ documents will be developed for both. **A note about process:** In its consultations and review, the College's Governance Committee considered member feedback and jurisdictional scans from other Canadian MRAs. Approval of the final Standards occurred via a motion of the College Council. As always, the provincial context and the College's mandate of regulating the practice of medicine in the public interest were significant factors in determining the final versions of these revised Standards.

The College is authorized to regulate the practice of medicine
and the medical profession in the public interest.

The mandate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador
as established by the *Medical Act, 2021*