



# COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Q1 2026 Update

April 15, 2026

## Q1 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

A hybrid meeting of the Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Newfoundland & Labrador (CPSNL) was held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the CPSNL Office, 120 Torbay Road, with virtual attendance available via Microsoft Teams.

In Q1, the Annual Renewal Team successfully completed the 2026 Annual Renewal, renewing a record 2,029 Registrants (a 9.4% increase compared to the 2025 Annual Renewal). The Licensing and Registration team updated the cpsnl.ca website to post exemptions to registration and clarify requirements, supporting transparency and compliance with the *Fair Registration Practices Act*. The team also continues to collaborate with Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services to help address physician sponsorship process challenges and to assist with resolving physician staffing issues where possible.

Since the last Council meeting, the Complaints Authorization Committee met twice to review 17 cases. Complainants and Registrants will benefit from recent improvements to the Complaint Form, which now uses plain language and a simplified consent process to better support Early Resolution. Updates to the Registrant management system added new complaint categories and subcategories to improve reporting and support future decision-making. To help Registrants and members of the public better understand the professional conduct process, a new [educational video](#) is now available on cpsnl.ca.

The Quality Assurance team is working with external partners on key priorities, including an external review of the Physician Peer Review Program (PPR-NL). The PPR-NL program remains on hold while options are developed for a redesigned approach that is sustainable, consistent, and appropriate for all Registrants. The team also contributed to discussions on the National Registry of Physicians and explored collaboration with the Prescription Monitoring Program.

CPSNL continues to exercise prudent financial practices. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reported that revenue remains stable, and expenditures were within budget for 2025. An updated [fee schedule](#) was posted to cpsnl.ca to include fees for Physician Assistants and Licence or Registration Refusal Appeal.

In 2025, CPSNL requested and was granted funding from the Department of Jobs, Immigration and Growth (now

## Updated Standards of Practice

### Advertising

- Advertising reflects the notice and/or exchange of information that is communicated to members of the public for the purpose of promotion.
- Advertisements must be limited to truthful information that is compatible with the best interests of the public.
- [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Disclosure of Harm

- CPSNL recognizes that despite the commitment to provide the most appropriate medical care possible, clinical outcomes may not be as desired or anticipated.
- When an unintended harmful or no-harm incident occurs, CPSNL Registrants have an obligation to disclose the event to their patients.
- [Click here](#) to learn more.



Jobs, Growth and Rural Development) to evaluate the need for a multistakeholder orientation program for Internationally Trained Physicians (ITP) new to the NL healthcare system. CPSNL completed the assessment and determined that a multistakeholder orientation program would be beneficial. CPSNL is now leading the development of the second phase of this work, hosting Advisory Committee meetings and working towards securing funding for implementation. Efforts are also underway to establish a Public Advisory Network which will provide a formal process for public consultation on CPSNL's regulatory work, with recruitment planned for Q2.

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## Continuing Professional Development

To support high-quality care and professional growth, licensed physicians and physician assistants in Newfoundland and Labrador are required to stay enrolled and up to date with an approved Continuing Professional Development program that aligns with their scope of practice.

Registrants are encouraged to review [the policy](#), their Continuing Professional Development status, and ensure their enrollment remains current.



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## Q1 2026 Council Meeting Highlights (continued)

The Governance Committee introduced revised Standards of Practice for both [Advertising](#) and [Disclosure of Harm](#). Additionally, the Standard of Practice relating to Bloodborne Viruses was repealed with the intention that this health concern be managed via the same process as other physician health issues which could reasonably pose a risk of harm to patients. The Council also reviewed and approved the list of candidates for the Disciplinary Panel, using a rubric to verify eligibility and identify applicants which have potential for conflict of interest based on current or recent roles. CPSNL extends its appreciation to all Registrants who expressed interest in joining the Disciplinary Panel.

In January, CPSNL conducted a mid-term review of its strategic plan. This review reaffirmed the organization's commitment to three strategic drivers: being easy to work with, collaborating widely with stakeholders, and innovating regulatory practices. These strategic drivers continue to be relevant and provide clear direction for CPSNL's activities.

CPSNL is pleased to welcome Dr. Oscar Howell back as Interim Deputy Registrar. CPSNL extends its gratitude to Dr. David Carroll for his leadership and contributions and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours.

The Annual General Meeting and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 13.

## NLMA's Physician Care Network (PCN)

The NLMA's PCN focuses on prevention, early support, and treatment of health conditions. The process is confidential, and information is only shared with CPSNL when there is a duty to report (s.41, *Medical Act, 2011*).

The PCN is available to physicians, residents, and medical learners; and we encourage our members to self-refer if you are experiencing any health difficulties. Self-referrals offer an opportunity to address issues early, ideally before impairment occurs.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the NLMA's PCN.



How do you feel about our level of communication? [Click Here](#) to tell us how you would like to see it evolve.



## Disciplinary Panel Appointments

Members of the Disciplinary Panel were selected using established eligibility criteria to support fairness, independence, and public confidence in the process.

### Re-appointments

- Dr. Amer Qureshi (Chair)
- Dr. Jasbir Gill
- Dr. Christopher Kovacs
- Dr. Susan MacDonald
- Dr. Patti Power
- Dr. Peter Rogers
- Dr. Etienne van der Linde

### New Appointments

- Dr. Elizabeth Bannister
- Dr. Susan Fagan
- Dr. Amanda Park
- Dr. Katie Saunders
- Dr. Julia Trahey

## Oversight Providers



CPSNL is seeking physicians who are interested in becoming oversight providers. Oversight providers are paid for their service, and their reports to CPSNL play an important role in ensuring access to quality patient care across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Please contact [quality@cpsnl.ca](mailto:quality@cpsnl.ca) to learn more or express interest.

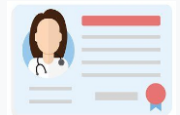


## Member Portal – Self Serve Options

Quick tasks made easy in the member portal!

- Print your 2025 tax receipt
- Print your Licence Card
- Update your contact information

[Click here](#) to log in.



## Important Reminders



### Change in Status:

- If any of the information provided on a Renewal Application changes throughout the year, the Registrant must update CPSNL. Examples include:
  - New complaints in another jurisdiction
  - Changes in hospital privileges
  - Criminal charges
  - Anything impacting your fitness to practice

### Meeting with CPSNL:

- Meetings with CPSNL are by appointment only

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