

EXCERPTS FROM COUNCIL REPORTS — TRANSPARENCY PROJECT

The following is a collection of excerpts from Council Reports regarding the transparency project and this College's work with the Advisory Group on Regulatory Excellence (AGRE).

Excerpt: September 2014 Council Report

Feedback Sought on Proposed Changes to the Public Register

Also discussed at the meeting were proposed amendments to by-laws relating to information posted on the Public Register. As previously reported, the College is working on a multi-staged initiative to determine how we can make more information available about decisions and processes. These proposed amendments are part of the first phase of the Transparency Project and the changes are related to the posting of findings of guilt and custody or release conditions. The proposed by-law provisions have been posted for a 60-day public consultation (deadline November 19, 2014). Feedback received will be considered at the next Council meeting.

Excerpt: June 2014 Council Report

Transparency Initiative

In keeping with its objective to enhance the transparency of information, both about pharmacists and the effectiveness of self-regulation, Council agreed to move forward with the presented phased-approach as the next step to this ongoing initiative.

The first phase focuses primarily on enhancing the consistency and clarity of existing information including notices of discipline committee hearings, publicly available criminal findings of guilt, certain bail conditions, and the identity of non-members who are practicing illegally. This will necessitate making amendments to the by-laws which will be drafted this summer and circulated to the membership.

The second phase will focus on the potential provision of information relating to outcomes of the College's Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee. Further discussion with committees, legal analysis and evaluation of process changes will need to occur prior to this phase being implemented.

These decisions of Council reflect recognition of the College's mandate of public protection and serving the public interest, and are consistent with decisions made by councils of the other AGRE – Advisory Group on Regulatory Excellence – colleges jointly engaged in leading this initiative.

Excerpt: March 2014 Council Report

Transparency Project — Update

Council received, for information, an update report on the transparency initiative led by a working group of AGRE – Advisory Group on Regulatory Excellence – which consists of representatives from the Colleges of medicine, nursing, dentists, pharmacy, optometry and physiotherapy. The working group

was established to examine information-sharing practices and determine how regulators might make more member specific information available to the public.

Following the approval of the transparency principles by all AGRE Councils late last year, the working group has been focused on exploring how these principles could inform decision-making. Over the next several months additional consultation will be conducted, including public polling. The information gathered will be analyzed and recommendations for expanding the information to be made public are expected to be brought forward to AGRE member Councils for consideration later this year.

Excerpt: December 2013 Council Report

Transparency Principles Update

As reported previously, this College, together with five other health regulatory colleges, is working on a multi-staged initiative that will see us examine our information-sharing practices and determine how we might make more information available to the public about college decisions and processes. The eight proposed common transparency principles were presented to Council in September and since then, to several committees. As well, they have now been shared and endorsed by the other five college councils.

Council heard that progress continues to be made on this initiative through the Transparency Working Group, as it compares the processes and data collection among Colleges. As well, AGRE, (the Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence), which has oversight of this initiative, has engaged a public consultation firm to conduct a public poll to determine the type of information the public would consider useful. It is anticipated that more information will be forthcoming at the Council meeting in March 2014.

Excerpt: September 2012 Council Report

Transparency Principles Considered

This College, together with other regulatory Colleges, is working on a multi-staged initiative that will see us examine our information-sharing practices and determine how we might make more information available about decisions and processes. There is a growing sentiment that access to more information may assist members of the public in choosing a regulated health professional, enhance accountability, and better inform any evaluation of the performance of self-regulation of the profession.

A small group of health professional regulators (AGRE – Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence), whose membership includes this College, has developed draft transparency principles to guide regulatory college discussions about making more information publicly available. In developing the draft principles, the group had several objectives:

- To focus on principles only
- To keep the number of principles low, with good rationales and supporting evidence
- To strike a balanced tone, one that demonstrates openness to transparency, combined with a thoughtful, careful approach and recognition of the strengths of the existing legislative framework.

Council was requested to consider these principles and to provide feedback to AGRE for consideration with a view to finalization of the principles by the end of 2013. Discussions about details of implementation, including specific categories of information, will occur after the principles discussions.