

MARCH 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on March 10, 2015.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DPRA REGULATIONS

The passing of Bill 21: *Safeguarding Health Care Integrity Act, 2014* extends the College's authority to license and inspect pharmacies within public and private hospitals, as well as future authority over institutional pharmacy locations. As a result, the current *Drug and Pharmacies Regulations Act (DPRA)* regulations, which only address community pharmacy practice, needed to be revised. In drafting these revisions, consideration was given to the following principles:

1. Regulations will be performance-based
2. Regulations will focus on high risk practices, those that impact patient safety
3. The approach to drafting regulations will be high-level rather than specific. Standards, policies and guidelines will be utilized to address issues wherever possible
4. The regulations will support practice evolution and change
5. The regulations will be drafted without specificity to permit the contemplation of multiple classes of certificates of accreditation

The proposed regulation sets out the performance expectations of pharmacy practice sites, but excludes details which may become irrelevant over time. Council, however, was assured that policies, guidelines and processes will be developed with appropriate consultation that will ensure that the expectations of the regulation are clearly articulated and met.

Accordingly, Council approved the recommendation that the [proposed regulation](#) be

circulated for public and member feedback. Comments and input – due by May 10, 2015 – will be considered by Council at its meeting in June.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council participated in a facilitated session to review the current Strategic Priorities, mission and vision statements and core values.

The focus at the session was on the governance principle that Council leads and directs the College to achieve its public interest mandate, and the Registrar is given the authority and responsibility to operationalize Council's public interest mandate and strategic plan. While the current [Strategic Directions](#) were considered to still be valid and appropriate, there was consensus that each direction should be reviewed with a **"patients first"** lens to ensure that patients continue to remain front-and-centre in all our activities. Council also directed that the College review the means by which it engages public/patients and members to inform decision making.

Over the next few months, College staff will develop an operational plan to support the Strategic Directions, ensuring that the values of transparency, accountability and excellence are applied throughout. The plan will be brought forward to Council for approval at its June 2015 Meeting.

The operational plan will be monitored and each quarter Council will receive an update regarding progress on the Strategic Directions.



COUNCIL APPROVES AUDITED STATEMENTS FOR COLLEGE OPERATIONS FOR 2014

Council approved the Audited Financial Statements for the operations of the College for 2014 as prepared by management and audited by Clarke Henning, LLP, Chartered Accountants. The audit and resulting financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards. Council was pleased to note that the auditors did not identify any major issues of concern. The summarized financial statements will be published in the 2014 Annual Report in late March.

BY-LAWS DEALING WITH INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC REGISTER — APPROVED


The College has committed to enhancing transparency and ensuring that Ontarians have access to information that is relevant, timely, useful and accurate. Over the last two years, we have been collaborating with five other healthcare regulators on the topic of transparency. This Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE) has recommended certain categories of information be made available on the Colleges' public registers to allow members of the public

to make more informed choices about their healthcare.

At this Council meeting, feedback on the proposed changes that deal specifically with additional member information to be placed on the public register was reviewed and considered. Some of this information is related to the work of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC), and some is information that is generated through other processes (criminal charges) or regulatory authorities (findings in other jurisdictions). Of the 49 responses received (45 from members, 3 from public and 1 from an organization), there was some opposition based on the perception that this would have a personal impact. There was also some misunderstanding of the categories of complaint outcomes that will become public information.

Council approved the changes to the by-law, noting that the College is not proposing to provide any information regarding federal and provincial charges that is not already publicly available and that criteria and processes for some of the other information (e.g. determining relevance to suitability to practice) is currently being developed. The processes and criteria will be communicated once they have been established.

CODE OF ETHICS TASK FORCE – UPDATE

The Code of Ethics Task Force was established in December 2014 with a mandate to review and update the current Code of Ethics so that it more appropriately addresses current practice, and to enable pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to apply it in practice. Mr. Scanlon, who is the Chair of this task force, reported to Council that an ethicist has now been contracted to assist with the project and it is anticipated that further updates on progress will be provided to Council at its meeting in June. 

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS:

- Monday 15 June, 2015
- Thursday 17 and Friday 18 September 2015

Council meetings are open to the public, and are held at the College: 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2R4. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact

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