

# MARCH 2017

## COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on March 20th, 2017.

### DR. BELL ADDRESSES COUNCIL

Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was welcomed to the Council table where he spoke about the modernization of governance of regulated health professionals in light of the *Patients First Action Plan for Health Care* and the health system transformation initiatives underway in Ontario. He spoke about the government's commitment to evolve the health system into one that puts the needs of patients at its centre, the successes to date and the work yet to be done to improve the patient experience in part by making the system more transparent and accountable. He also commented on the need for a single integrated system, rather than the creation of parallel practice systems and funding mechanisms.

The College's mandate of serving and protecting the public, together with the government's commitment to this important initiative, continue to inform all decisions made at the Council table.

### BILL 87 – THE PROTECTING PATIENTS ACT

At this meeting, Council considered Bill 87, *The Protecting Patients Act*. The Bill is an important piece of legislation that proposes changes to the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA), the legislation that provides health colleges with the authority to regulate health professions in the public interest. The Bill contains amendments to strengthen the

legislative provisions relating to sexual abuse and transparency as well as changes to enhance the complaints, investigation and discipline processes.

Registrar Nancy Lum-Wilson presented to Council a comprehensive overview of the expected changes to the RHPA. It was noted that the intent and overall objectives contained in the Bill align with the College's own values and commitment to transparency and accountability. The College supports actions that provide better patient protection and strengthen its role to serve and protect the public. It was further noted that there are areas that will require further clarity, and that ongoing engagement with the government would be beneficial. The College will participate in the government's consultation process as the Bill moves through the legislature.

### CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM FOR MEDICATION SAFETY

Medication incident reporting is another significant initiative that is currently underway at the College. As reported in December 2016, there was unanimous support by Council of requiring members to report medication incidents to an external body. A task force was subsequently established to examine this subject and to develop a model for consultation.

At this March meeting, Council received the recommendations of the Medication Safety Task Force

which proposed a framework for the development of a standardized continuous quality assurance (CQA) program that will apply to all pharmacies. The standardized CQA program will:

- put the patient first by requiring mandatory reporting to a third party;
- require shared accountability between pharmacies, for the systems they design and how they respond to staff behaviour, and pharmacy professionals, for the quality of their choices and for reporting their errors;
- emphasize learning and accountability through a culture where individuals are comfortable bringing forward medication incidents without fear of punitive outcomes; and
- enable sharing of lessons learned from medication incidents through reporting, resulting in ongoing process improvements to minimize errors and maximize health outcomes.

Council endorsed the proposed framework and directed the College to move forward with public consultation on the CQA program for a period of 30 days beginning March 31. Following the close of the consultation period, the College will present a final framework for approval at the June 2017 Council meeting, including next steps in its implementation.



**TASK FORCE ON OPIOIDS**

In November 2016, Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott and Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins convened a two-day summit to address the ongoing opioid crisis in Canada. The meeting included other provincial health ministers, addiction experts and affected families. Ontario’s commitment was to implement a comprehensive Opioid Strategy that focuses on enhancing data collection, modernizing prescribing and dispensing practices, and connecting patients with high quality addiction treatment services.

The Registrar is currently serving as a co-lead with the Registrar of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists to assist with a national (National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities) opioid strategy. However, given the importance of this issue, Council considered and fully supported the Executive Committee’s recommendation of creating an Opioid Task Force to support the development of a College Opioid Strategy that aligns with provincial and national strategies. The Strategy would address short, medium and long term initiatives and will report to Council through the Executive Committee.

**COUNCIL APPROVES AUDITED STATEMENTS FOR COLLEGE OPERATIONS FOR 2016**

Council approved the Audited Financial Statements for the operations of the College for 2016 as 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](#) can be found on the College’s website.

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN STRATEGY**

The College is developing a strategy that will build on existing efforts to achieve integration of pharmacy technicians within practice in order to help maximize the clinical role of pharmacists as medication therapy experts. In addition to the implementation of core College programs such as quality assurance that will impact the integration of pharmacy technicians in practice, the College will engage educators, pharmacy owners, corporations and other stakeholders with aligned objectives to support the strategy. The strategy will be brought forward at the June Council meeting, with further progress reporting through the regular College quarterly reports.

Successful implementation of the strategy will create an environment that better enables the profession to practice to scope.

**NEW PUBLIC MEMBERS APPOINTED TO COUNCIL**

Council welcomed Ms. Elnora Magboo and Ms. Joan A Pajunen to the table. Ms. Magboo will be serving on the Accreditation, Drug Preparation Premises, Inquiries Complaints and Reports (ICRC) and the Registration Committees of the College, and Ms. Pajunen will be serving on the Discipline and ICRC Committees.

This last quarter also saw the departure of public member, Mr. John Laframboise, and District T elected member, Ms. Michelle Filo. Accordingly, a by-election will be held in District T over the summer.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017:**

- Monday 12 June, 2017
- Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 September, 2017

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 Ms. Ushma Rajdev, Council and Executive Liaison at [urajdev@ocpinfo.com](mailto:urajdev@ocpinfo.com)