



CONNIE BECK REGISTERED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Dear Fellow Pharmacy Technicians,

As I ask for your support and consideration to be an elected council member I believe it is important to explain how I can contribute to the advancement of pharmacy services within the Colleges strategic framework. Pharmacy practice is evolving at a rapid pace. The future of our profession lies in the strategic priorities of the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Our elected council members should embody the skills needed to achieve these priorities. There are three priorities within the College's strategic plan that I believe will require input from pharmacy technicians.

1. ENHANCE SYSTEM AND PATIENT OUTCOMES THROUGH COLLABORATION AND OPTIMIZATION OF CURRENT SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

- *One of the biggest challenges that we face in pharmacy is optimal utilization of scope of practice for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. As pharmacists clinical role increases with prescribing of minor ailments it is essential that pharmacy technicians work to their full scope. Having worked in retail pharmacy for 20 years the barriers that prevent pharmacy technicians from practicing to their full scope are evident. Awareness of the barriers will help me to provide solutions moving forward. In order for all pharmacy professionals to provide the best patient care, everyone needs to be working to their full scope. Support services and education will allow for a smoother transition into the future model of pharmacy practice.*

2. STRENGTHEN TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE COLLEGE'S ROLE AND VALUE AS A PATIENTS-FIRST REGULATOR.

- *The role of the Ontario College of Pharmacists is to ensure patient safety. There is often conflicting ideologies about what the Ontario College of Pharmacists can and should do. Having served the past 4 years on the Ontario Pharmacists Association I had the opportunity to advocate for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. My knowledge can aid with making pharmacies safe for the public and pharmacy professionals. I believe I am in a unique position to help implement these changes. The Ontario Pharmacists Association advocates for the profession while the Ontario College of Pharmacists ensures patient safety. Once government approval for legislative changes occur then the Ontario College of Pharmacists ensures that the implementation is safe for the public. One of the ways that we can ensure safe implementation of expanded scope of practice for pharmacists is to enable pharmacy technicians to work to their full scope of practice. Pharmacy technicians currently have the knowledge and skills to provide patient education such as device training (aerochambers, glucometers and lancing devices). In retail pharmacies the pharmacy technician should be checking the technical aspects of the prescription, accept verbal prescriptions, and provide transfers.*

3. ENHANCE THE COLLEGE'S CAPACITY TO ADDRESS EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVANCE QUALITY AND SAFE PHARMACY PRACTICE AND REGULATORY EXCELLENCE..

- *Having been a Board Director at the Ontario Pharmacists Association for the past four years I have intimate knowledge of the opportunities that pharmacy professionals will be looking to adopt in the near future. With many different pharmacy practices we are divided into many groups which means that each group may be affected by changes in different ways. What works well for one pharmacy setting may not work well for another. In order to implement changes in such diverse settings it is important that we work together and understand each other. Open communication, understanding and support for each other can be our biggest strength moving towards a better healthcare system.*

Together pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are an integral part of the healthcare system. I am proud to work in a great profession and would be proud to represent our profession.

*Sincerely,
Connie Beck*