

JUNE 2019

COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held on June 17th, 2019.

COUNCIL ELECTION 2019 UPDATE

Council elections are underway in districts T, TH, K and L. Dr. Wayne Hindmarsh and Ms. Deanna Williams were appointed as scrutineers for these elections which close on Wednesday, August 7th.

RESPONSE TO COLLEGE NAME CHANGE REQUEST

In December 2018, the Council passed a motion to formally request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care consider a recommendation to change the College's name from Ontario College of Pharmacists to Ontario College of Pharmacy, which would require changes to legislation. The Minister has subsequently responded that any discussions to change the name would require evidence and support that patients would be better served. The College will consider moving this request forward if and when it pursues other proposed legislative changes with government in the future.

COUNCIL DEBATES AND APPROVES THE NEXT LEVEL INTENTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE REFORM

Following the approval of four governance renewal principles in December 2018, the Council participated in a facilitated discussion reviewing the next steps involved in governance reform. The governance framework is grounded

in adopting best practices and in building greater public trust in the role of the Council and the mandate of the College.

Separation of Council and statutory committees

True separation cannot be achieved until the governing legislation is amended; however in order to move closer to this intention, Council agreed to appoint all elected professional members to the Discipline Committee only and to appoint two public members to each statutory committee for which public members are mandatory as per the legislation. The College, along with its Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE) partners, will continue to advocate for changes to the legislation to achieve complete separation of Council from statutory committees.

Competency-based selection

To further the College's public protection mandate, Council agreed to shift from the current geographical districts for the election of Council members to having positions on Council that reflect various patient populations, such as acute, urban, rural, northern, and Indigenous. Candidates who wish to run for election will need to have demonstrated experience in serving the patient populations listed. Council also approved the development of a more robust and transparent selection process

for future Council members. In the absence of legislative change to separate Council from statutory committees, there is a requirement that elected professional members serve on the Discipline Committee. Therefore, prospective candidates will be encouraged to have had prior service on College committees, such as having served as a non-Council committee member (NCCM).

Reduction in Council size and equal number of public and professional members

Council approved the reduction in the number of elected members from 17 currently to the minimum of nine (of which two must be technicians) as legislated in the Pharmacy Act. A plan will be developed to ensure Council retains knowledge and experience during the transition to a smaller governing body. As well the bylaws will ensure that parity between publicly appointed members and elected members of Council is maintained.

Other governance modernization and best practice changes

Changes were approved to the titles of people and groups who register with the College and govern the College to make their roles and responsibilities clearer to the public. For example, Council will be called the Board of Directors and the President and Vice President will be known as Chair and Vice

Chair. 'Members' of the College will be officially referred to as 'registrants' to better reflect their fundamental relationship with the College. Also, the terms of office for elected Council members will be reduced to a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms to ensure that new perspectives are regularly brought to the Board, while appropriate transition and succession planning is maintained.

A decision regarding the Council's intentions was necessary in order for the College to move forward with drafting the bylaw changes required to operationalize the governance framework, which will become effective at the start of the 2020/21 Council year. Council will continue to be consulted as the processes are developed and will be responsible for approving the draft bylaws over the coming year.

COUNCIL APPROVES THE SUBMISSION OF A NEW DRAFT OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE REGULATIONS

In December 2017, further to broad open consultation, Council approved changes to the General Regulation 202/94 to make changes to the classes of registration (to remove pharmacy students and add pharmacy technician interns) as well as to update the Quality Assurance regulation to reflect the new program model and add the requirement for pharmacy technicians to participate in the Quality Assurance program, including practice assessments. The College submitted these regulatory amendments in March 2018, but partially as a result of a change in government, they have not moved through the approval process.

During recent discussions with government, the College expressed the desire to move the

regulatory changes needed to include pharmacy technicians in the Quality Assurance program forward, in order to align with the College's implementation of pharmacy technician practice assessments earlier this year. In order to support this request, the Ministry recommended the College re-submit the proposed changes to General Regulation 202/94, previously approved by Council, in two separate phases, first with the Quality Assurance program changes followed by the registration amendments. Council approved the submission of a new draft of Regulation 202/94 with the amendments to Part VIII (Quality Assurance) and a subsequent resubmission of the Regulation to include the proposed amendments for Parts I through VII (Registration). The intent of the proposed changes remains the same.

COUNCIL APPROVES THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE JURISPRUDENCE EXAM BLUEPRINT

A working group was tasked with reviewing and updating the exam blueprint for the Jurisprudence, Ethics and Professionalism assessment which was last updated in 2012. The exam blueprint was updated with a greater focus on scope, ethics and professionalism. The exam question format will be changed to include case-based multiple choice questions to allow for scenario-type questions better suited to assess ethics and professionalism. As well the exam timing will be changed such that the exam will only be offered post-graduation for all applicants, to allow for assessment of critical thinking and application of jurisprudence and ethics to case-based questions. A transition plan, including timelines for implementation of the changes is in development and will be communicated with stakeholders.

HOMEOPATHY IN PHARMACY

Council reviewed a briefing note regarding the provision of homeopathic products in pharmacies, following receipt of a change.org petition. Currently, no province or territory in Canada has regulations or guidelines in place to prohibit the sale of homeopathic products in pharmacies or to prevent pharmacists from recommending them. The College will monitor the outcome of the recent consultation activity of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia and will continue to monitor the environment with regard to public comments, petitions and voiced concerns on the topic of homeopathy. In the meantime, the College does and will continue to expect pharmacy professionals to follow the Code of Ethics and all relevant laws, regulations and standards. This includes having the knowledge and competency to be able to provide safe, evidence-based advice to patients.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

On May 30, 2019, the College received a letter from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care asking Council to make regulations that would enable pharmacists to:

- Administer the flu vaccine to children as young as two years old;
- Renew prescriptions in quantities of up to a year's supply;
- Administer certain substances by injection and/or inhalation for purposes that are in addition to patient education and demonstration; and
- Prescribe drugs for certain minor ailments.



In addition, the Minister has asked the College to work with the Ministry to provide pharmacists with the authority to perform certain point of care tests for certain chronic conditions.

An internal working group has been established to create a detailed work plan that will include policy development, broad stakeholder, public and registrant consultation and regulatory drafting. Regulatory amendments for the first three activities are to be submitted by November 30, 2019, thereby requiring two special Council meetings to meet the timeline. The first meeting will be held in August for approval of open consultation on the draft amendments and the subsequent meeting for approval of the final regulatory amendments to be submitted to government will be held in November. Regulatory amendments to permit prescribing for certain minor ailments are to be submitted by June 30, 2020.

The College has committed to providing updates as this work moves forward, including details related to planned consultation and engagement activities once confirmed. Watch for updates on the College's website, in eConnect and in Pharmacy Connection.

ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICATION SAFETY (AIMS)

As part of the Registrar's report the Council was given an update

on the implementation of the College's mandatory Assurance and Improvement in Medication Safety (AIMS) Program which continues to gain momentum across the province. Approximately 80 per cent of Ontario's community pharmacies now have access to the medication incident reporting platform with the remaining pharmacies expected to gain access by mid-2019. The aggregate, de-identified data will be analyzed by a Response Team of pharmacy professionals and patient safety experts to develop recommendations on how pharmacies can reduce the risk of patient harm and support continuous quality improvement. The recommendations will be shared with pharmacy professionals and other healthcare stakeholders to help reduce medication errors and improve patient safety, with the first report expected in summer 2019.

QUALITY INDICATORS SYMPOSIUM UPDATE AND PRESENTATION

Council was provided with a summary of the Quality Indicators Symposium held on June 6, 2019 in Toronto. Those in attendance at the symposium, including representatives from the legislature and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, offered overwhelming support of the initiative.

The Quality Indicators for Pharmacy were developed in collaboration

with HQO, the provincial advisor on healthcare quality, and selected by an Expert Panel that included patients, practicing pharmacists, academics and other health system stakeholders. The quality indicators, which focus first on community pharmacy given the work already done to establish indicators within hospital practice, will enable both pharmacy professionals and the College – which is responsible for promoting quality improvement within the pharmacy profession – to gain a clearer picture of the quality of pharmacy care and make evidence-based decisions to support quality improvement.

The College will continue to engage patients, frontline pharmacy professionals, corporate pharmacy sector leaders, academics and health system data experts as it moves forward with implementation, including developing an understanding of what tools and resources pharmacy professionals will need to support quality improvement.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meetings will be held Monday, September 16 and Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Two special meetings of Council will be held to facilitate approval of regulations related to expanded scope of practice. The first will be held on August 22, 2019 and the second will be held on November 21, 2019.

Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers of the College at 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2R4. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact Ms. Sarah MacDougall, Council and Committee Liaison at council@ocpinfo.com. You can also follow along via Twitter during Council meetings. 