

# DECEMBER 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

*As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held on December 9th, 2019.*

## **COUNCIL APPROVES THE CIRCULATION OF COLLEGE BY-LAW NO. 6 FOR CONSULTATION**

Council reviewed and approved the draft By-Law No. 6 to enable changes to the governance structure of the College. Council has also proposed amendments that would put in place annual cost of living fee increases. The College will post these by-law changes for [open consultation](#) for a period of 60 days, after which Council will receive a report on the input received through the consultation for consideration at the next Council meeting in March 2020.

The governance changes are grounded in adopting best practices and increasing the ability of the College to foster and strengthen the trust of the people of Ontario. The main components that underpin the changes to the By-Law are:

**Nomenclature** – Council will be known as the Board of Directors and the President and Vice President will be known as Chair and Vice Chair to better reflect the fundamental role of the positions. College Members will be known as Registrants to better reflect the relationship with the College and acknowledge the responsibility of the College to those it regulates and protects.

**Reduction in Board Size** – In September 2020, the College Board of Directors will comprise nine Elected Directors who are also Registrants (two of which are Pharmacy Technicians), nine Public Directors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) and the two Deans of Pharmacy from the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo respectively. This will bring the total number of Directors to 20, down from 28.

**Competency-Based Board** – Candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors will be screened using established and published competency criteria based on their eligibility, skills, knowledge and experience.

**Board Composition** – Registrant candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors will be screened based on the patient populations served to allow for diverse perspectives of the needs and issues of the patients of Ontario. This replaces the former geographical electoral district framework and more clearly aligns with the College's public protection mandate.

**Separation of Board and Statutory Committees** – As much as it is permitted by statute, members of the Board of Directors will not serve on Statutory Committees. Elected Directors will only serve on the Discipline Committee while Public Directors will continue to serve on a number of statutory committees. The College will recruit Lay Committee Appointees to represent the public voice on committees that do not require Public Directors or to supplement those that do.

**Changes to the Standing Committees** – The Board of Directors will have two new committees replacing the Elections and Nominating Committees: the Screening Committee will independently screen those applying for Board elections and committee appointments and qualify those who may run for election; and the Governance Committee will determine the recruitment strategy, plan for the succession of Chair and Vice Chair positions and prepare the committee appointment slate for Board approval.

**Honorarium** – The College will move to a new honorarium based remuneration model for Elected Directors and Committee Appointees.

**Fees** – The College fees will be prescribed in schedules within the By-Law and will have cost of living adjustments linked to the consumer price index starting annually on January 1 each year commencing 2021.

## COUNCIL APPROVES THE 2020 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

Council approved the proposed 2020 break-even budget with incoming revenue equaling the budgeted operating and capital expenditures. Council reviewed and approved the resource allocation plans associated with the operations of the College and was informed of the initiatives underway to ensure the College is identifying and leveraging the opportunities for efficiency.

## COUNCIL APPROVES THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REGISTRATION RESOLUTIONS

In December 2019, the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Pharmacy Technician Bridging Program is being discontinued. Established in 2013, this program was initially developed to support the transition registration pathway as the regulation of technicians was established. Currently the program is used as bridging education for International Pharmacy Technician Graduates (IPTG) who are required to complete a bridging program, unless they successfully complete the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Qualifying exam on their first attempt.

In 2018, NAPRA first signaled that this program will be discontinued as all transition pathways have closed. Several regulators (ON, MB, AB and BC) as well as the PEBC who also use the program for IPTG applicants, attempted to maintain the program for the long term, but have determined that there are insufficient applicants to make

it sustainable. NAPRA, along with these organizations, will continue to pursue an alternative bridging program for IPTG applicants, and in the interim Council approved that the Registration Committee will review these applications on an individual basis to determine which education courses are necessary for them to complete in order to demonstrate that they possess the knowledge, skills and judgment equivalent to graduates from accredited pharmacy technician programs in Canada.

## SCOPE OF PRACTICE – MINOR AILMENTS UPDATE

In response to the Minister of Health's [request](#), the College provided Council with an update on the development of regulations that would enable pharmacists to prescribe drugs for certain minor ailments. These proposed regulations are due to the Minister on June 30, 2020.

The College has continued to work closely with the Ministry, and has established the Minor Ailments Advisory Group (MAAG) which comprises patient advisors as well as experts in medicine, public health, health systems research, and pharmacy in order to provide input and guidance on how these changes can improve patient health outcomes. The advisory group's terms of reference can be found on the [College website](#). Additionally, broad preliminary feedback is being solicited which includes meeting with pharmacy associations, administering a [survey to registrants](#), and through public focus groups to help build a strong, evidence-informed foundation for deciding which minor ailment conditions to include. The

Ministry has expressed that the focus of the minor ailments under consideration should be tailored to those that result in unnecessary emergency department visits to decrease the burden on patients and the health care system.

Council reviewed the preliminary list of 18 minor ailments for consideration and was informed that the Ministry has expressed the desire to have the list further refined to 10 to 12 minor ailments. A motion was put forward and passed to add post exposure prophylaxis for Lyme disease to the list of minor ailments, given the importance of timely treatment and the growing risk areas in Ontario.

The regulatory submission will be presented at the March 2020 Council meeting and following approval of Council, the proposed regulations will be posted on the College's website for open consultation for a period of 60 days.

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, March 23, 2020. 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](mailto:council@ocpinfo.com). You can also follow highlights from the Council meetings via Twitter. 