

MARCH 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held on March 23rd, 2020.

This meeting was held via video and teleconference in consideration of provincial directives and social distancing measures recommended by Public Health due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTROLLED DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES ACT (CDSA) EXEMPTION

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Canada issued a short-term exemption under Section 56 (1) of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) that authorizes pharmacists to prescribe, sell, or provide controlled substances in limited circumstances, or transfer prescriptions for controlled substances, subject to provincial laws and regulations.

As the provincial government must approve amendments to provincial regulations to enable some of these temporary provisions, the College presented draft regulations under *The Pharmacy Act* to allow pharmacists to renew and adapt prescriptions. Council reviewed and approved the draft regulatory amendments and the open consultation period was waived given the urgency of the matter. The amended regulations were submitted to, and subsequently approved by, the provincial government and are now in force in Ontario.

Please note that the CDSA exemption expires on the earliest of these dates: September 30, 2020, or the date in which it is revoked or replaced by another exemption. The federal Minister of Health may also change the terms and conditions of the exemption or suspend it, if deemed necessary to protect public health, safety or security.

REGULATION AMENDMENTS TO ENABLE EXPANDED SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR PHARMACISTS

In response to the Minister of Health's [request](#), the College presented Council with the draft regulations that will enable pharmacists to prescribe drugs

for certain minor ailments. Proposed regulatory amendments are due to the Minister on June 30, 2020. Council reviewed and approved the draft amendments to proceed to a 60-day open consultation. Accordingly, the College is now [seeking feedback](#) on the amendments to the General Regulation 202/94 of the *Pharmacy Act*, Part VII.3 (Controlled Acts).

DEADLINE FOR PHARMACY NON-STERILE COMPOUNDING STANDARDS

The College proposed that, due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation and the need for pharmacy professionals to focus on continuity of care and minimizing public risk, the deadlines for pharmacies to meet the NAPRA Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-Sterile Preparations should be extended. Council approved the proposed one-year extensions to the original deadlines. The adjusted deadline for phase 2 (Personnel Training and Quality Assurance) is now July 1, 2021 and the adjusted deadline for phase 3 (Facilities and Equipment) is now January 1, 2022.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council reviewed and approved the College's 2019 audited financial statements prepared by management and audited by Tinkham LLP Chartered Professional Accountants. The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee reported that the Committee reviewed the Auditor's Report and internal controls and met with the auditors via in-camera sessions both before and after the audit, and is satisfied that the financial reporting risks outlined in the audit planning are being appropriately addressed.

PROPOSED BY-LAW NO. 6

Council ratified By-Law No. 6 effective March 23, 2020 following 60 days of open consultation. Over the last 18 months, Council has deliberated, considered and approved changes related to Council composition, competencies, and selection as well as the composition of statutory committees, which are operationalized in the By-Law. The new By-Law is reflective of governance best practices and will strengthen the ability of the Board to provide oversight that is transparently aligned with the mandate of OCP to serve and protect the public interest. As well, relevant nomenclature will be updated so that Council is now referred to as the Board of Directors, President and Vice President are now referred to as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, and members are now referred to as registrants. By-Law No. 6 also incorporates annual fee increases tied to the published consumer price index starting in 2021.

REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES POLICY

Council reviewed and approved the proposed policy developed for remuneration and expense reimbursement for professional members of the Board and Committees, and future Lay Committee Appointees. Initially this policy was planned to come into effect on September 19, 2020 just prior to the first meeting of the new Board year. However, given the new environment of videoconferencing and teleconferencing adopted under public health guidance and provincial directives, it was proposed that the policy become effective March 23, 2020 to ensure that the Board and Committee appointees can be compensated for the meetings happening between March and September 2020.

APPOINTMENT OF THE SCREENING COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Council approved the appointments to the Governance and Screening Committees. Refer to the [Council materials](#) to view the composition for the Screening Committee and Governance Committee and a high-level synopsis of the mandate of each committee.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, June 15, 2020, following a special Board meeting on April 22nd. Board meetings are open to the public and are held in the Board Chambers of the College at 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON, M5R 2R4 or electronically if necessary. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact Ms. Sarah MacDougall, Board and Committee Liaison at council@ocpinfo.com. You can also follow highlights from the Board meetings via Twitter. 