

JUNE 2021 BOARD MEETING

As recorded following the Board of Directors' meeting held on June 24, 2021.

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

BOARD APPROVES GOVERNANCE AND BURDEN REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPONSE TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH REQUEST FOR INPUT ON RHPA REFORM OPPORTUNITIES

The Ministry of Health is seeking input on opportunities for governance reforms under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) and has requested feedback from all provincial health regulators by June 30, 2021.

To inform the College's response to the government, the OCP Board convened a special meeting on June 24, 2021 to discuss previously approved principles for governance modernization and to consider other opportunities aimed at further strengthening proposals to align with governance best practices. The Board considered the 2019 letter submitted to the government expressing support for governance modernization, and the subsequent governance renewal initiatives implemented at the College over the past two years within the existing legislative framework and enabled through governance policy and By-Law amendments.

At the June 24th meeting, the Board expressed its continued support for and approved the following governance reforms and principles, some of which have already been implemented at the College, to be shared with the government for consideration in potential amendments to the RHPA:

- Smaller Boards (Councils), reducing the size of the Board to 8-12 members and eliminating the Executive Committee.
- Separating the Board from statutory Committees, except where required by statute.
- Ensuring a 50/50 balance of elected professionals and appointed public directors to the Board, while eliminating academic appointments. The Board recommended ensuring academic representation be maintained in other ways, such as advisory groups.

- Maintaining the current model of competency-based elections with aligned competency-based appointments of public Board directors.
- Changing nomenclature in the RHPA to refer to 'Council' as 'Board', and 'Members' as 'Registrants'.

Currently, the RHPA, per the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, requires that all complaints received by provincial health regulatory colleges must be investigated, including complaints that represent no risk to the public and/or are unrelated to relevant regulatory standards and practice expectations. In response to the Ministry's request for input on additional opportunities aimed at burden reduction and improved efficiency to help colleges respond to emerging needs, the Board also expressed its support for and approved an additional proposal to the government aimed at providing colleges with the flexibility within the RHPA and the Code to use their discretion in determining whether or not a formal investigation is required for all complaints filed with a regulator, while steadfastly maintaining their public protection mandates.

In its response to the government, the Board supported including with the submission a reminder of the Quality Assurance and Registration regulations which were submitted in 2018 and are awaiting government approval which will further support burden reduction once implemented. The submission will also include a request to reconsider renaming the organization to the Ontario College of Pharmacy, in follow up to the original request made to the Minister of Health in 2019, in recognition of the College's oversight of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies.

For further details regarding the governance reform principles and burden reduction opportunities discussed with the Board, please see the [June 24 Board Meeting Materials](#) posted online.