

MARCH 2022

BOARD MEETING

As recorded following the Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meeting held on March 21, 2022.

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

PHARMACY APPRECIATION MONTH

In acknowledgement of Pharmacy Appreciation Month, the Board Chair recognized and expressed appreciation for the work of pharmacy professionals in caring for our communities and contributing to the health and well-being of patients. Ontario's more than 22,000 pharmacy professionals, as well as pharmacy students and interns, play an important role in our health system – providing direct patient care or assuming policy, regulatory and leadership roles behind the scenes. Together they have supported the province's COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs, while maintaining access to safe, quality pharmacy care throughout the pandemic. They continue to put patients first, delivering competent, compassionate services that Ontarians have come to know and trust. And they have engaged with the College by participating in focus or advisory groups, sharing their feedback through surveys or consultations, serving on the Board or on Standing and Statutory Committees and by engaging and actively participating in the many initiatives aimed at promoting quality pharmacy care for all Ontarians.

BOARD APPROVES AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Following the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board approved the College's 2021 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by Tinkham LLP Chartered Professional Accountants. The opinion of the auditor is that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as of December 31, 2021 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then-ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations. A copy of the Audited Financial Statement is available starting on page 16 of the [Board package](#).

COLLEGE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

The Board was presented with an overview of the 2021 submission of the College Performance Measurement Framework (CPMF) report, a document introduced by the Ministry of Health to apply a standardized and transparent approach to reporting on the performance of Ontario's health regulatory colleges and

to support system-wide quality improvement. The CPMF also aligns with the College's commitment to transparency and accountability and focus on performance reporting. The Board presentation also included a summary of the performance against CPMF standards since the inaugural publication of the CPMF in 2020, with a focus on areas for further improvement. The College's CPMF report will be submitted to the Ministry and posted on the College's website by March 31, 2022.

COLLEGE PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

Results from the 2021 Q4 College Performance Scorecard were shared with the Board. The scorecard is a document drawn from the annual Operational Plan that provides an overview of key performance indicators and project/initiative milestones, along with corresponding targets, that demonstrate the advancement of the College's strategic priorities and core responsibilities for the year. It also provides a valuable tool to support the Board's oversight and governance roles. In 2021, the Performance Scorecard was aligned with the College Performance Measurement

Framework domains introduced by the Ministry of Health, including Governance, Resources, System Partners, Information Management, Regulatory Policies, Suitability to Practice and Measurement, Reporting and Improvement. Additionally, the Board approved the 2022 Performance Scorecard and targets. Further details are available starting on page 31 of the [Board package](#).

ACTING REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The College's Acting Registrar delivered a report to the Board highlighting activities that have taken place since the last meeting, as well as progress on strategic initiatives. The presentation included updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency assignment registration, point-of-care testing, and a summary of engagement activities with the Ministry, regulatory organizations and pharmacy stakeholders. The full Acting Registrar's report is available starting on page 45 of the [Board package](#).

MASKING REQUIREMENTS IN PHARMACIES

The Board discussed the removal of the province's mandatory masking requirements on March 21, and the need for the College to continue reinforcing messages with registrants about the importance of using professional judgment and continuing to wear masks to keep patients and pharmacy staff safe, particularly when providing close-contact care such as COVID-19 testing or vaccinations. The College will continue to provide registrants with relevant guidance and updates as they become available, in addition to the content currently available on its [COVID-](#)

[19 Information for Pharmacy Professionals](#) web page.

GOVERNANCE REFORM AND REGULATORY MODERNIZATION CONSULTATION

Over the past several months, the College and its peer organizations with the Health Regulatory Professions of Ontario (HPRO) have been engaging with the Ministry on its request for input on governance reform and regulatory modernization proposals as part of the government's *Supporting People and Businesses Act*. Overall, the College was pleased to see that many of the proposed governance reforms are reflective of the Board's feedback to an earlier consultation from June 2021 and in alignment with the governance changes already implemented at the College. The College provided feedback as part of this consultation exercise indicating that further consultation is warranted on the proposed regulatory modernization changes that introduce new oversight bodies. Board decisions will continue to provide the foundation for further discussions with government. Additional details are available in the [Board package](#) starting on page 50.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The Board approved a Commitment Statement that broadly expresses to stakeholders the College's intent related to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and the relevance of this work to the College's public interest mandate. The

Commitment Statement formally and publicly acknowledges the Board's dedication to developing an overall EDI strategy for the College. Additional information about the development of an EDI strategy will be communicated over the coming weeks and months. The approved statement is as follows:

"The Ontario College of Pharmacists recognizes the important role we play as an employer and as a regulator that serves and protects the public interest to help build a better health system and society.

We commit to promoting equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) with our Board and staff, in our regulatory approach and philosophy, with the profession and with pharmacy patients. We aim to enhance cultural safety including Indigenous cultural competence in an effort to minimize systemic inequities, in collaboration with registrants and stakeholders, in order to contribute to the creation of an inclusive and equitable environment for all.

As we do, we will strive to listen, reflect, learn and take actions and will continue to communicate our progress along this journey."

SCREENING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Board approved appointments to the Screening Committee, which undertakes the process of screening applicants for competency prior to running for election to the Board and being appointed to College Committees. As per the by-laws, the Committee is comprised of a mix of Board Directors – both public and elected – and two Lay Committee Appointees with

an understanding of regulatory governance. The appointed members are:

- Governance Committee Chair – David Breukelman
- Public Director – Gene Szabo
- Elected Director – Tracey Phillips
- Lay Committee Appointee – David Collie, President and CEO, Electrical Safety Authority
- Lay Committee Appointee – Megan Sloan, Project Coordinator of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) & former President of the College of Nurses of Ontario.

CONSULTATION ON ADOPTING OR ADAPTING REVISED NAPRA MODEL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The Acting Registrar provided the Board with details about plans to initiate a thorough consultation process to inform a decision about adopting or adapting recently revised Model Standards of Practice (MSOP) developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA). This would replace two current separate standards of practice, one for pharmacists and one for pharmacy technicians, in a single harmonized MSOP.

Setting standards for pharmacy practice is a core regulatory function of the College, helping to define a consistent approach that a member of the public can anticipate when receiving pharmacy care in any pharmacy setting in Ontario. Given that the

standards have been modernized and written at a higher level, the College is planning an active and broad public consultation with registrants, pharmacy stakeholders and patients to help determine whether to adopt or adapt the new MSOP, and to ensure the new standards are aligned and reflective of current practice. This will include a thorough review to compare the current MSOP documents with the revised MSOP to identify any changes or opportunities that require attention through an alternative mechanism.

In recognition of the importance of this consultation, the potential impact of the revised MSOP, and the current pressures facing pharmacy professionals in Ontario, the Board agreed to an extended consultation period to ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback. Details about the MSOP and consultation approach are included in the [Board package](#) starting on page 58. Further information about consultation on the revised MSOPs will be communicated in the coming weeks and months.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Ontario College of Pharmacists Board meetings are open to the public, and the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 13, 2022. Special Board meetings may be called at any time. Please see our website for information on [upcoming Board meetings](#). You can also follow highlights from the Board meetings via [Twitter](#).