



JUNE 4 AGM

Location:

The Hub, St. John's

JUNE 6

Deadline for the amendment of the Criminal Code of Canada, in the matter of physician-assisted dying.

HIGHLIGHTS: 2016 Q1 Council Meeting

The first-quarter College Council meeting, held March 12th in the St. John's boardroom of College solicitors Stewart McKelvey, focussed on the review and approval of the College's guidelines for Physician-Assisted Dying. See box below for details.

Highlights of the meeting also included:

1. Annual review of the College's governance manual.
2. Distribution of annual council, committee and registrar evaluation forms (results of which will be tabulated for the June meeting).
3. Review of the 2015 Operational Plan. Council indicated approval of what had been achieved. The semi-annual review of the 2016 Plan occurs at the June Council meeting.

THE TABLET ERA BEGINS

All materials for the 2016 Q1 meeting were presented in e-form. For details about the College's paperless agenda, see next page.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 4

URGENT ISSUE

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DYING: NEXT STEPS

The Physician-Assisted Dying (PAD) Policy that the College Council Approved at its March 12th quarterly meeting is now posted on the College's website (click the link on the home page). All members are encouraged to become familiar with this policy as soon as possible.

The College's PAD policy outlines the standards of practice that all physician members will be expected to meet. It outlines qualifications, skills and training, process and procedure, objection and referral, communication, and the required documentation involved in this new aspect of health care. It is similar to the policies now in place in many Colleges across the country.

Although the topic of PAD has been discussed for more than a decade, implementing and overseeing this medical intervention is new territory for many Colleges and physicians, including our own. Council intends to review its PAD policy in six months, annually for several years, and/or when review is needed. We encourage College members to provide practical and practice-related comments about the application of the policy in the coming months, so that it can be refined as effectively as possible.

The Supreme Court responded to the federal request for an extension to amend the Criminal Code by setting a new deadline of June 6, 2016. After that, the door will be officially opened for doctors and patients to add this intervention to the available menu of care options—with adherence to the relevant legislation and College standards of practice.

IN OUR NEWS

NEW AND IMPROVED RECORDS & DATA

Following up on its recently received consultant report on Information Management, the College began updating its approach to records management in February 2016. Also on the books for this year is a website upgrade, which will increase members' ability to interact with the College online, and a thorough enhancement of the College's database.

GOING PAPERLESS

Using "Diligent Boards" software—which shares and displays e-documents securely—the College launched into the paperless-meeting era at its Q1 Council meeting. It will expand the use of the software to all committee meetings in 2016. Relevant papers are posted to College-issued tablets. Not only does this "green" practice decrease paper use, it is more secure and shifts more of the College's communications and record-keeping activities from paper to data storage.

FOUR NEW DISCIPLINARY PANEL MEMBERS

At its Q1 2016 meeting, Council appointed four new Disciplinary Panel members from among the 27 candidates who expressed interest in serving, and named a new Chair. Council used a matrix to add members who could broaden the panel's scope of representation, weighing such factors as location and area of practice, gender, and medical school of graduation, for example.

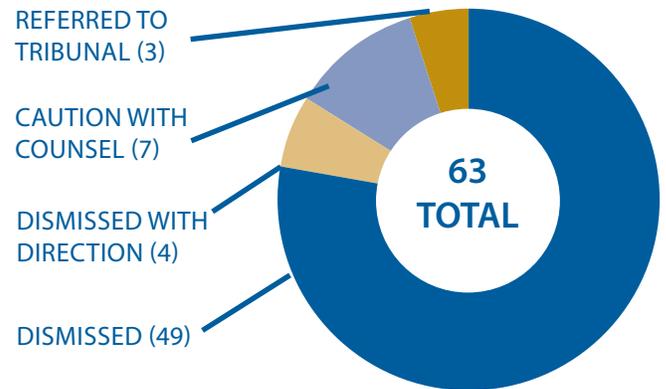
The new Disciplinary Panel members are:

Dr. Tanis Adey Dr. Amer Qureshi
Dr. Carl Sparrow Dr. Etienne van der Linde

The new chair of the Panel is Dr. Marie Fagan O'Dea. Council thanks everyone who put forward their name for consideration.

At its 2016 fourth-quarter meeting, Council will review a new plan for ongoing renewal of Disciplinary Panel members.

2015 SNAPSHOT: RESOLVED COMPLAINTS, BY OUTCOME



ON OUR RADAR

HOW TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CONTINUITY OF CARE?

THE ISSUE: A thorough understanding of patients' medical histories and unique situations raises the level of health care delivery and increases patient satisfaction. But in a world where health-care delivery is fractured in time and place and divided among an ever-changing cast of physicians, nurses, and other care givers—especially for vulnerable patients, such as the elderly—how can informed and effective continuity of care be delivered?

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS: Colleges and health-care administrative bodies across the country are grappling with the complexities of improving continuity of care—i.e., providing care that is coordinated and seamless with no disruptions or communication lapses. Among the approaches being discussed are the formation of interdisciplinary care teams, increasing the involvement of patient care managers, enhancing the content and availability of electronic medical health records, improved protocol for physician transfer of patients in all settings, and the provision for physician after-hour call and availability.

WHAT THIS COLLEGE IS DOING: The College is well aware of the complexity of this issue and its importance to the delivery of quality health care. The College plans to develop a discussion paper on measures to enhance continuity of care in this province that will be circulated for member review by year's end.

Mandate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

"The college is authorized to regulate the practice of medicine and the medical profession in the public interest."

As established by the *Medical Act*, 2011