



## OCTOBER

16 / Nominations close  
for four new College  
Council members

## THIS FALL

Period begins for joint  
renewal of Annual  
Medical Licence and  
Professional Medical  
Corporation registration.

## HIGHLIGHTS: Q3 Council Meeting

The September 12 third-quarter College Council meeting was largely focussed on internal goal-setting and planning, building on 2015 planning, strategizing and risk-assessment efforts. Highlights include:

1. Confirming that the College will do an annual Strategic Review process each September to set work priorities for the coming year.
2. Committing to annually review the College's annual Operational Plan and Budget at each year's December Council meeting.
3. Setting a 13-point priority list for the coming year covering the College's core functions: licensing and registration, allegations/complaints, quality assurance and policy, and operations.
4. Endorsing five Value Statements to be applied to all College activities (at right and next page).

### COLLEGE VALUE STATEMENTS

Fairness  
Quality of Service  
Social  
Responsibility  
Communication  
Transparency

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: DECEMBER 12

### ON OUR RADAR

#### PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DYING

Following the February 2015 ruling by the Supreme Court striking the law against physician-assisted dying, the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities for Canada (FMRAC), the Canadian Medical Practitioners Association (CMPA), the Canadian Medical Association, and others, have issued statements and guidelines to help identify and clarify the range of issues surrounding current standards of practice for medical practitioners and their patients in the matter of physician-assisted dying. These documents are available on each agency's website.

It is critical to **note that the grace period allowed by the Supreme Court, which permits such action, expires on February 6, 2016.**

In August 2015, the Newfoundland and Labrador Working Group on physician-assisted dying met for the first time. Its goal is to develop this province's approach to this issue and in so doing help provide further guidance for physicians practising here. Members include representatives from this College, the NL Medical Association, the provincial departments of Justice, Health and Community Services and Seniors, Wellness and Social Development. The work on this profound issue is ongoing.

## IN OUR NEWS

### FUTURE UPDATES FROM THE COUNCIL

Beginning with this issue, *UPDATE* will be issued quarterly, two weeks after each Council meeting. Next issue: January 2016.

### OPERATIONS UPDATE: COLLEGE BUSINESS PRACTICE MANUALS

In 2015, the College began to collect and record decisions made about specific activities of its core functions, to be used by staff as a resource to enhance consistency and fair treatment in service delivery. These Business Practice manuals will be regularly reviewed and revised—and new ones added—as needed.

### COUNCIL SEAT ELECTION (X 4)

The College website provides details about the upcoming election for four Council members: how to nominate a candidate, the nomination deadline, and the voting process. See [www.cpsnl.ca](http://www.cpsnl.ca) (click “Election 2015”) or email [Election2015@cpsnl.ca](mailto:Election2015@cpsnl.ca). Deadline for nominations: October 16.

### COLLEGE VALUE STATEMENTS / 2015

**FAIRNESS** The College undertakes to treat all individuals and organizations who avail of College services with fairness and consistency.

**QUALITY OF SERVICE** The College undertakes to provide quality service in a timely way to its members, to members of the public, and to other stakeholders.

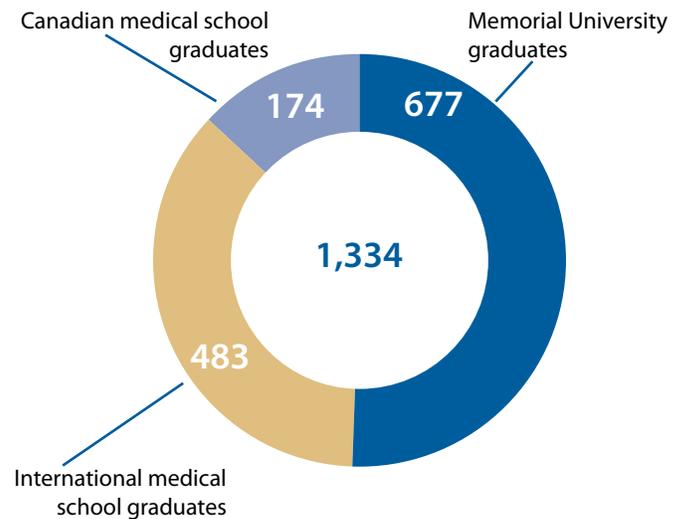
**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** The College undertakes to pursue social responsibility issues where they fit within the College’s mandate.

**COMMUNICATION** The College undertakes to assess the opportunities for communication plans in all its work and execute them where appropriate.

**TRANSPARENCY** The College undertakes to embrace principles of transparency in all its work—recognizing “transparency” as a sustained commitment to share information while balancing needs for both protection and privacy.

### SEPT. 2015 SNAPSHOT:

#### LICENSED PRACTISING PHYSICIANS IN NL



## ON OUR RADAR

### COMPLICATIONS & IMPLICATIONS OF “TELEHEALTH”

**THE NEW REALITY:** Rapid and ongoing advances in communications technology are now allowing patients and physicians to virtually cross borders in their medical activities—for example, in how and where they seek, write, and fill prescriptions, or instances of patients living in different provinces or countries from their care providers.

**THE CHALLENGE:** Former “boundaries” used in guidelines for medical investigation, care and prescription activities can be—and are being—easily ignored

**WHAT TO DO?** Medical regulatory authorities are grappling with how to keep up with ever-changing and complex realities that have made some of their rules and guidelines obsolete. Clearly new responses and guidelines are needed, but currently there are more questions than answers.

#### 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