

# MARCH 2020 UPDATE



## JUNE 13

### Q2 2020 Council Meeting

CPSNL office at  
120 Torbay Road  
Suite W100

## JUNE 13

### CPSNL Annual General Meeting

1:30

(Immediately  
following the Q2 2020  
Council meeting)

## CPSNL: SHIFTING OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19

Members are reminded that the College's Torbay Road office is now closed to support social distancing. College staff are working from home and their priority is work related to COVID-19. Response times for processing general inquiries, applications, and complaints will take longer than usual. All College communications with members will be by email. We ask for your understanding and extend thanks to all who are striving to meet the unusual and demanding challenges we are now experiencing. Be safe.

## 2020 Q1 COUNCIL MEETING

The College's first-quarter Council meeting was held on **March 14** at JAG Hotel in downtown St. John's. Five members participated remotely. Meeting highlights included the following activities.

### FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL SESSION

The annual presentation to Council about good governance was given by Jane Pardy of Flow Consulting. She covered **best practices and trends**, including how to build and maintain excellence on a board of directors.

### EMERGENCY PLANNING

In addition to regular agenda items, Council was shown the College's **COVID-19 Management Plan**—an evolving governance manual that College management is using (and updating) as needed in its efforts to deal with the current pandemic.

### REPORTS REVIEWED

- **Complaints:** College Counsel summarized active Alternate Dispute Resolution cases and updated Council on three pending Adjudication Tribunal Hearings.
- **Licensing:** Data about 2020 member licence renewals and non-renewals were summarized and Council was made aware of a new internal *Licensing Guide*.
- **Quality Assurance:** Updates were given on the active cases being managed by the Quality Assurance

1,424

# of CPSNL members  
who renewed a  
licence to practise  
medicine during 2020  
(Excluding locums)

Committee and ongoing activities in the PPR-NL pilot program.

- **Information management:** Prior to the current crisis, the College identified information management as a 2020 work priority, to further facilitate efficiency and internal risk management measures.

### PRACTICE-READY ASSESSMENTS

Council was updated on progress on the PRA-NL component of the College's new Physician Assessment Training Orientation (PATO) program, which also involves a new method of oversight for provisionally licensed physicians.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Council was advised about the launch of the College's revised website (expected within weeks) and a June meeting with stakeholders about licensing (remote participation vs. in-person to be determined). Updates were also provided on the costs and benefits of the College's recent and upcoming leasehold improvements, which will reduce College overall costs and generate external revenues.

## RESPONDING TO COVID-19

### LICENSING DURING A PANDEMIC

To fulfill its mandate of protecting the public in the regulation of medical practitioners, the College has well-defined protocols for licensing physicians to practise in this province.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic is putting extraordinary pressure on the medical system and there will be an urgent need for more medical practitioners.

In response to this situation—and if requested by a Regional Health Authority (VP of Medical Services) or the Minister of Health—the College may issue **Emergency Licences**. All Emergency Licences will be issued following a condensed licensing assessment.

## COLLEGE NEWS

### NEW STAFF

The College welcomed a new **licensing clerk** to process new licences to practise. Andrea Somerton began work in March.

### REGIONAL OUTREACH PENDING

Since joining the College, Registrar Dr. Linda Inkpen has made two outreach visits annually to provincial locations. **Planning for the 2020 sessions is currently on hold.** Dates and locations will be announced as soon as the pandemic situation allows.

## FROM OUR UK COLLEAGUES

Medical regulators around the world are struggling to deal with the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic is placing on us all. We felt Dame Clare Marx, Chair of Britain's General Medical Council, was **particularly articulate and inspiring in her recent message** to the GMC's members about the current situation. Here are excerpts from that message, whose spirit and meaning the CPSNL fully endorses:

“Doctors are leading the fight in a war with an enemy we don't yet fully understand. As you race to respond, you will face being ill yourself, and juggling the care of loved ones.

The pressure will be immense. . . .

While this situation is without parallel in modern times, the values and behaviours required of our clinicians are well established. The tenets of being a good doctor have not changed.

Responding to this pandemic will require us to do things differently. It will require us to be flexible. And it will require us to work right to the edge of our comfort zone, and in some cases beyond. . . .

You may, rightly, have questions about the implications of these changes. I want every doctor to know that we, as your regulator, understand the burden you are shouldering. . . .

The nature of being a doctor is to go above and beyond to deliver the care our patients require. But in this crisis situation, compassion, civility, and self-care will matter more than ever.

Please be kind to each other, and to yourselves. And may I, as both a doctor and a member of the public, thank you for all you do.”

### 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*