

# JUNE 2020 UPDATE



## SEPTEMBER 12

Q3 Council Meeting  
8:30 a.m.

Location TBD

## APPROACHING LMCC DEADLINE?

The Province's *Medical Regulations* state that anyone issued a primary care practice provisional licence must obtain a Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) within three years of the provisional licence issuance. Non-compliance results in the licence being revoked. In 2020, the May qualifying exams (Part 2) were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At its Q2 meeting, CPSNL Council resolved to work with government to amend the *Medical Regulations* to give Council the discretion to extend primary care practice provisional licences when an LMCC examination is cancelled or delayed.

## 2020 Q2 COUNCIL MEETING

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College's second-quarter Council meeting was held as a virtual event on **June 13**; all 12 Council members participated. The CPSNL 2020 annual general meeting directly followed (see next page for notes). Second-quarter Council meeting highlights included the following.

### REPORTS REVIEWED

The Registrar gave a special report on the **College's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**, updating Council on how responsibilities were

handled by staff working from home, challenges and how they were met, and lessons learned.

- **Complaints:** College Counsel E. Bruce gave an update of matters dealt with during the three CAC meetings held to date this year, the three pending Adjudication Tribunal hearings and other complaints events currently in process. A report summarizing activities in 2019 was also shared.
- **Licensing:** A report on licensing numbers for the first quarter of

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## AN UPDATE ON SPRING 2020 CANADIAN GRADUATING RESIDENTS

The College of Physicians and Surgeons NL has announced that, upon application to CPSNL, the Canadian graduating resident cohort, Spring 2020, will receive provisional licences to practise medicine until the postponed certifying examinations can be completed in Fall 2020. These graduates will require Regional Health Authority (RHA) sponsorship and will be credentialled and privileged by the relevant RHA, but there will be no supervisory reports to the College

required for them—the RHAs will determine the level of supervision needed, if any.

This information has been communicated to the RHAs, Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) at MUN's Faculty of Medicine, the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, and the Professional Association of Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador (PARNL) and is inline with the actions of other Canadian Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

## COUNCIL MEETING, CONT.

2020 was shared. J. Osmond spoke on other licensing matters, including the **postponement of a planned provincial stakeholder meeting** from June to Fall 2020.

- **Quality Assurance:** B. Bennett gave updates on the active cases the Quality Assurance Committee is managing. He also noted that the pilot physician peer-review program (PPR-NL), having been disrupted by snow (January) and the pandemic (March), was **re-started on June 1**.
- **Operations:** J. Osmond discussed the effects of the pandemic on the 2020 Operations Plan; priorities have been re-assessed and the College believes that it can still meet most objectives. It was noted that much time since March had been devoted to operational concerns, especially communicating with staff, Council, and stakeholders.

### PATO UPDATE

O. Howell noted that the College is now **reviewing the draft oversight framework** prepared by MUN's Faculty of Medicine PATO team that will (once approved) provide a standardized approach to supervision and oversight of new provisionally licensed physicians in the province.

### INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Council approved and adopted the **2020 CPSNL Governance Manual**. Council was advised that discussions on Atlantic Canada **medical regulations harmonization** were on hold during the pandemic but was slated to resume in late June, and that some national and international events that College staff were to attend have been cancelled.

Work on the **revamping of cpsnl.ca** was initially paused when the pandemic began, but has now resumed. The College had added new website content specifically to answer questions about work during the pandemic. Council was advised that this section will remain on the site and be updated when circumstances require. Finally, the annual reviews of College management and Council were reviewed.

## 2020 AGM

The College's annual general meeting began at 1:30 on June 13, following the conclusion of the second-quarter Council meeting. It, too, was held virtually (attending College members were required to pre-register). The Registrar's remarks gave an **overview of the College's large and small areas of attention**—from its mandate and regular examination of priorities and progress, through its new and ongoing programs and recent focus on communications, to the challenges faced in 2019 and the work that lies ahead. Many of these concerns and activities are discussed in the College's annual report for 2019, which was presented at the meeting and is publicly available at cpsnl.ca. Dr. Inkpen noted that “our College work in 2019 continued to lay solid foundations for programs to assure our public, whom we exist to serve, that our **physicians are practising safely and ethically.**”

## CPSNL & COVID-19: OUR NEXT STEPS

As we are all aware, Newfoundland and Labrador entered Alert Level 3 of pandemic protocol on June 8. During the first week of June, the College began a phased repopulating of our offices on Torbay Road. Staff had been working remotely since March 18.

The College will continue to monitor advice and directives from the Provincial Medical Officer of Health and will adapt our operations, planning, and activities accordingly. The health, safety, and comfort of College staff remain paramount as we do our work and fulfill our mandate.

The College has developed a new chapter for its Emergency Manual, to capture the communications and considerations, the challenges and solutions, the templates and lessons learned during the pandemic.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who continue to work with dedication for and with us in these unusual times.

**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*