

# SEPTEMBER 2017 UPDATE



## OCTOBER 2

Licences to Practise, 2018, available for online completion.

## DECEMBER 9

Q4 Council meeting, held in St. John's at the NL Housing and Homelessness Network offices, Pleasantville.

# Highlights: 2017 Q3 Council Meeting

The College's third-quarter Council meeting was held on September 9 at the Johnson GEO CENTRE in St. John's. Highlights included:

1. Introduction of Mr. David Dove, whom the Province has appointed to Council for a three-year term. The Council's 15-member complement is now complete.
2. Review of 2017's strategic directions and Operational Plan and 2018's risk registers and projected budget; setting of College work priorities for 2018. These discussions provide the groundwork for the 2018 Budget and Operations Plan, to be approved at the December Council meeting.
3. A presentation by the College's legal counsel about professional self-regulation in Canada (additional information below).
4. Review and approval of five new or revised Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines (listed at right).
5. Setting of the 2018 College fee schedule. Details are listed on the College's website.

## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT SELF-REGULATION

At the Q3 Council meeting, the College's legal counsel, Elyse Bruce, made a presentation to Council about the nature of professional self-regulation in Canada.

She covered why regulatory authorities such as the CPSNL want to self-regulate, as well as trends in self-regulation across the country and how this College can continuously strive to improve its approach to, and execution of, its self-regulating responsibilities.

## UPDATES TO PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The Practice Guidelines (PG) and Standards of Practice (SP) approved at the September 9 Council meeting are listed below. Details are available on the College's website.

- Opioid prescribing (new PG)
- Ending the physician/patient relationship (updated SP)
- Closure of a medical practice and extended leave from practice (updated PG)
- Uninsured services (new PG)
- Professional responsibilities in medical education (updated SP)

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: DECEMBER 9, 2017

"Member MRAs have broadly similar objectives: to protect patients by employing effective regulatory tools, to manage risk, and to ensure that doctors are fit to practise and contribute to the provision of high-quality health care."

From "Independence of Regulation: The Primacy of Patient Safety," a recently released statement by the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA), of which Canada is one of 111 current members.

## IN OUR NEWS

### UPCOMING DISCIPLINE HEARING

A Discipline Hearing has been scheduled for November 14, 2017. Details are posted on the College's website.

### TALLYING THE TIDYING

The College is pleased to report that by the end of September 2017, fifteen of its Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines will have been reviewed and renewed—or newly developed—since the start of the updating process. In addition, the online content and presentation of all College Practice Guidelines and Standards of Practice have been improved.

### WHO CAN PRACTISE HERE?

The College website has also been upgraded to include a “decision tree” flow chart intended to help physicians wishing to practise here analyze their eligibility. It will also help regional health authorities seeking to recruit physicians to determine applicants' ability to meet our College licensing criteria.

## ON OUR RADAR

### GRANTING LOCUMS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

The College will focus on two key operational areas in the coming months, in an effort to improve efficiency and improve our ability to fulfill our mandate.

With an eye firmly on our priority—protecting public safety—we shall be examining ways to be more efficient and effective in the granting of locum licences. The goal is to complete this consultative process and updating within the next year.

Second, we shall take a close look at how best to revise the College's Quality Assurance program, to ensure ongoing physician competency. The review will include how and when physicians are assessed and how any identified deficiencies are redressed.

Look for details about developments on both these efforts in the coming months.

## ELECTIONS: NOT FOR US

For the first time in several years, the College does not require elections this fall.

## NL'S GRADUATE MDs: TRENDS

The table at right shows where post-MD trainees who completed training programs in Newfoundland and Labrador in July 2014 were practising in Canada in 2016, two years after graduation. (Visa trainees are not included; data shows Canadian citizens and permanent residents only.)

Reproduced courtesy of the Canadian Post-MD Education Registry (CAPER) 2016–17 annual census.

FIELD OF POST-MD TRAINING	NL	NS	PE	NB	CANADA	NOT LOCATED	TOTAL
Family Medicine	15	1	1		9		26
Emergency Medicine	2		1		1		4
<b>FAMILY MEDICINE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>30</b>
Anesthesiology	4				2		6
Diagnostic Radiology					1		1
Pediatrics	2						2
Psychiatry	1				1		2
<b>MEDICAL SPECIALTY SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>				<b>4</b>		<b>11</b>
General Surgery	2						2
Obstetrics/Gynecology	3			1		1	5
Orthopedic Surgery	1						1
<b>SURGICAL SPECIALTIES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>

## 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