

DECEMBER 2017 UPDATE



JAN. 15, 2018

Last day to renew Licences to Practise and for Professional Medical Corporations.

JAN. 31

Deadline for feedback on two new draft Standards of Practice.

MARCH 10

Q1 Council meeting, in St. John's, at the boardroom on Memorial University's main campus

Highlights: 2017 Q4 Council Meeting

The College's fourth-quarter Council meeting was held on December 9, 2017, at the NL Housing and Homelessness Network's offices in St. John's.

Highlights included:

1. The Complaints & Discipline report noted that during the first 11 months of 2017, the College received more complaints (82) than in any previous 12-month period.
2. Updates were received on 2018 individual licence renewals to date, as well as renewals of Professional Medical Corporations (PMCs). See the deadline reminder, at left. Council will proceed with renewal of PMC licences, but notes the appreciable uncertainty about the continued existence of PMCs pending federal government decisions and/or actions.
3. Council approved the 2018 Operations Plan and Budget, both of which were developed following the September Council meeting. As its name implies, the Operations Plan operationalizes the priorities, goals, objectives, and risk-mitigation strategies identified in the annual strategic review and priority-setting exercises.
4. The 2018 budget is just under \$3.4 million, up \$85,000 from 2017.
5. The Quality Assurance discussion included review of three Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines. By now, members will have received an emailed request for feedback on the two draft Standards of Practice ("Conflict of Interest" and "Withdrawal of Physician Services During a Job Action"). Council approved the new Practice Guideline ("Prescribing Opioids for Acute Pain"); it is now posted on the CPSNL website.
6. Council discussed a proposed amendment to College Bylaw 4: College Registers. The discussion will continue at the March 2018 Council meeting.
7. The Council and College staff continue to focus attention on the College's Continuing Physician Competency program and the issues around Provisional Licences and Sponsor Obligations.
8. Ms. Gail Hamilton and Dr. Peter Seviour were confirmed, respectively, as the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council until December 2018.

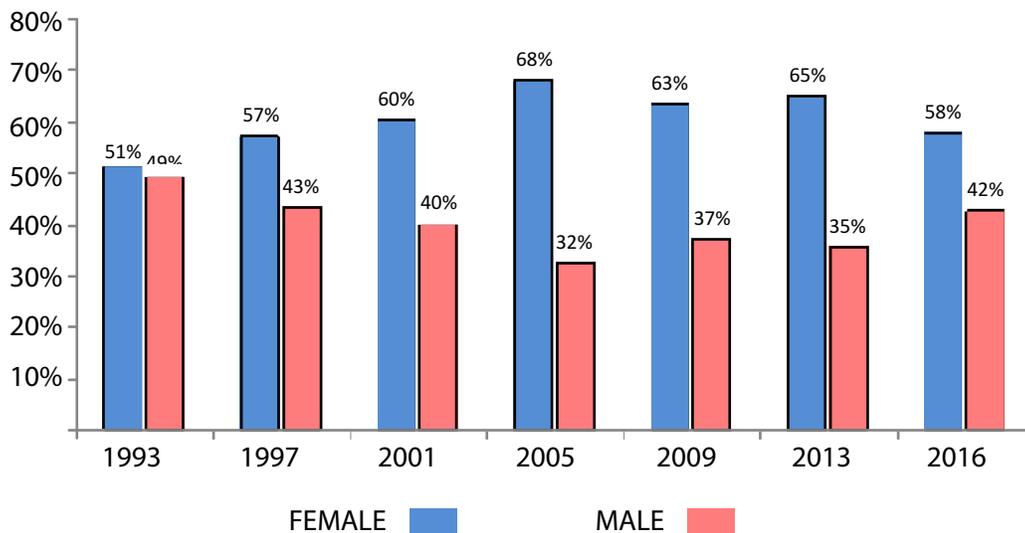
FROM OUR OFFICE TO YOURS



We extend our sincere wishes to all members and their families for a safe and happy New Year.

Please note that the CPSNL office will be closed from December 23 to January 1, inclusive.

GENDER STUDY: 1ST YEAR FAMILY MEDICINE (FM) TRAINEES



The graph at left shows the proportional division of first-year trainees in family medicine in Canada by gender over the last quarter century (excluding visa trainees). Peak enrolment of females in first-year FM programs occurred in 2005.

Reproduced courtesy of the Canadian Post-MD Education Registry (CAPER)

IN OUR NEWS

MOU SIGNED: PHYSICIAN CARE NETWORK

On December 6, 2017, the College of Physicians and Surgeons NL signed a memorandum of understanding with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association that allows the College to transfer some physician monitoring tasks to the NLMA's "Physician Care Network," when monitoring is deemed necessary to ensure physician wellness. This collaboration should enhance the College's capacity to regulate physicians in the interest of public safety.

LOOKING AHEAD

The College has taken conscious steps in 2017 to strengthen its focus on its legal mandate: regulating this province's physicians in the public interest and managing to our values of fairness, quality of service, social responsibility, communication, transparency, and innovation. Continued physician competency will remain a priority for 2018.

Physician oversight, sponsor obligations, and orientation for our physician population educated outside Canada are also 2018 priorities.

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES

Member publications of Canada's larger Colleges are packed with articles providing useful information and insights into the issues facing physicians and their regulatory bodies today. *Dialogue*, for example, is published by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and greatly repays a regular look; it is also accessible online (sample pages below).



Find *Dialogue* online at www.cpso.on.ca/ under "Publications."

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