



Board Highlights



BOARD MEMBERS

Photo: from left to right

Robert Craigue

District 5 – Northern British Columbia

Kris Gustavson

Government Appointee

Jeremy Walden

Government Appointee

Bal Dhillon

District 8 – Pharmacy Technicians

Doug Kipp (Chair)

District 4 – Kootenay/Okanagan

Jeff Slater

Government Appointee

Jerry Casanova

District 7 – Community Hospitals

Blair Tymchuk

District 3 – Vancouver Island/Coastal

Bev Harris (Vice-Chair)

District 2 – Fraser Valley

Agnes Fridl Poljak

District 1 – Metropolitan Vancouver

Anar Dossa

District 6 – Urban Hospitals

Ryan Hoag

Government Appointee

College to conduct survey on pharmacy practice in BC

Gary Schnabel, Executive Director of the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy presented to the Board regarding a recent survey conducted in his state that focused on concerns that employer expectations on pharmacists were set too high to allow for the standards to be correctly followed. The survey conducted by the Oregon State Board led to legislation in that State that banned certain practices by employers that were believed to compromise patient safety. The College will be conducting a similar survey this spring based on the Oregon survey, allowing for a comparison of the results in both jurisdictions. http://www.oregon.gov/pharmacy/Imports/OBOP-Pharmacy_Working_Conditions_Survey_Results11.11.pdf

Changes to the Code of Ethics *Conflict of Interest Standards*

The Board has accepted a recommendation of the Ethics Committee that a change be made to the Code of Ethics *Conflict of Interest Standards* to allow registrants to dispense prescriptions to family members in an emergency situation, when another registrant is not readily available, or when in their professional judgment it is in the best interest of the patient, and it is properly documented. The Ethics committee conducted a survey earlier in the year regarding the issue of dispensing to family members and to gather thoughts from pharmacists on this topic.

Moving forward on an *Advanced Practice Pharmacist* designation

The College is moving forward with its plans to introduce an Advance Practice Pharmacist designation. Discussions will begin this Spring and Summer with interested stakeholders on the potential for such a designation. APP would provide pharmacists with additional prescribing authority and the ability to order diagnostic tests that are within their level of knowledge and experience. The College's hope is that such a designation will help improve patient safety through more effective pharmaceutical care, improve patient access to healthcare services, improve patient health outcomes, and therefore reduce cost to the health care system.

Committee memberships

The Board also approved the memberships of all the committees at its most recent meeting. Committees are reviewed and appointed annually and are a critical part of College work. They exist to not only carry out specific tasks, but in many cases function to provide advice to the College Board. The College offers its sincere thank you to all who volunteered for Committee appointments, regardless of whether they were appointed or not.

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OUR VISION

As the medication experts, registrants are professionals who apply their full knowledge, skills and abilities to achieve the best possible healthcare results through patient-centered care.

Our Mission

To protect the public by ensuring that College registrants provide safe and effective pharmacy care to help people achieve better health.

Technician Fees

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians will enjoy reduced fees for registration as a result of two recent board decisions on fees. The College previously announced a reduction in the full pharmacist registration fee and is now happy to announce an equivalent reduction in the pharmacy technician fee. All fee changes will come into place later this year, after the fee schedules are formally entrenched into bylaw.

Join the Conversation: Building a new strategic plan

The College wishes to thank all of those who participated in the *Join the Conversation* survey process which allowed participants to provide feedback into the strategic planning process. Nearly 600 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians took the time to provide thoughts on 5 specific subject areas the Board wishes to move ahead with as part of its strategic plan. Phase 2 of this consultation – meetings across the province – are just being completed. The College's new strategic plan, focused on quality of pharmacy care to enhance patient outcomes, will be released in September.

The regional meetings in Burnaby, Kelowna, Prince George, and Victoria were also a huge success. Thank you to all who came and came with their questions and provided their feedback on the strategic plan. A special thanks as well to the staff of the pharmacies, both in hospital and community, that took time out of their busy day to give the Registrar the time to meet them in their practice. The opportunity to get out into the field across our great province is invaluable.