



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

Bylaw Reform Package: Fee Reductions and Incentive Prohibitions

The Board also passed a number of resolutions to revise bylaws that are housed within either the *Health Professions Act* or the *Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act*. As the final steps in the bylaw revision process, the College can now file the bylaw changes with the Ministry. These changes, upon official filing, will put into bylaw the prohibition on the provision of incentives for prescriptions and pharmacy services purchases, and the forms necessary to support the streamlined fee structure including the reduction in fees previously announced by the College.

Focused practice reviews are coming

The College will move towards focused practice reviews as a replacement for the Knowledge Assessment Exam. These reviews will be introduced by revising the inspection process to include two components: a review of the site and a review of the practice conducted by College staff. The College will be engaging with pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the next few months on issues related to further development and implementation of this new system. Watch for your invitation to participate coming soon.

Board officially approves changes to Professional Practice Policy-66 (*Methadone Maintenance Treatment*)

The Board officially approved changes to Professional Practice Policy-66 (*Methadone Maintenance Treatment*) that revise standards to support the introduction of commercially-available 10 mg/ml methadone oral preparation. Because of the significant public safety concern associated with the increase in concentration and significant changes to the standards related to methadone and its dispensing, the College is mandating that all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians involved in providing methadone services participate in a live or online training session by February 1, 2014. To register, login to eServices.

Strategic Plan Approved

The Strategic Plan is where the College lays out its goals and objectives for the organization over the next few years. The College has focused on quality enhancement as the focus for the next three years, looking at 5 specific areas; technology, standards, scope of practice, public expectations, and interdisciplinary relationships, that will enhance the quality of service provided by the College to its stakeholders, but also the quality of care provided by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to their patients.

Watch for more details in November as the College works on laying out some of the initiatives you can expect between now and 2017.

Board Highlights



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.

HIV Testing Pilot approved

The Board has approved an HIV testing pilot involving the BC Centre for Disease Control and two Medicine Shoppe pharmacies in Vancouver. The pilot is being run to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of HIV testing in community pharmacies. Authorization from the Board was sought because even though pharmacists involved in the pilot will be acting within their current scope of practice, rapid advancements in treatments and in the testing technology have allowed these types of services to be even contemplated in a pharmacy, the most accessible health service in the community.

The pilot is part of the *Treatment as Prevention* initiative that seeks to increase the number of HIV positive patients who receive treatment. It is believed that 25% of HIV positive individuals are unaware of their status.

More information is available please click [here](#).

Endowment Award for UBC

The College is contributing \$67,000 to support three endowment funds set up by the College in the 1970s with the purpose of funding scholarships for pharmacy students. Over the years, 117 pharmacy students have received scholarships from College of Pharmacists of BC Bursary, The Dean E.I. Woods Memorial Prize, and The Dean A.W. Mathews Testimonial Bursary. Since 1970s, however, there has been a real increase in the cost of living of 440% and university tuition fees have increased from \$300 in 1975 to \$8,000 for a pharmacy degree in 2013. The impact of these endowments on a student's ability to offset the cost of their education has been significantly eroded over time and the corresponding impact as a scholarship award has diminished. This additional grant to the three funds now supports awards of \$1000 per recipient.

Volunteer Opportunity

The College is looking for a practising pharmacist or pharmacy technician who is interested in serving as BC's representative to the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. If you have an interest in the assessment process in general, or entry-to-practice assessment in particular this might be something you are interested in. This is a 3-year commitment and requires appointment by the College of Pharmacists Board. More information is available on our website at:

http://www.bcpharmacists.org/news_events/news/news/295.php