



Council Highlights

The council of the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC) met for their regularly scheduled council meeting at the college office in Vancouver, BC on February 6, 2009. The following council highlights summarize the key initiatives discussed.

College sponsors BCPhA Annual Conference:

Council agreed to a request from the BC Pharmacy Association for a \$20,000 partnership level sponsorship for the upcoming BC Pharmacy Conference “*Advancing Practice, Empowering Pharmacists*” being held May 21st - 23rd in Victoria, BC.

In exchange for this level of sponsorship the college will be positioned as a partner with the BCPhA in presenting the conference and, where possible, will have input into the conference agenda and logo representation on related collateral materials. For more information and registration: www.bcpharmacy.ca

Council establishes Pharmacy Technician Task Group:

As follow up to council’s decision to remove reference to ‘Regulated Pharmacy Technicians’ from the HPA Draft Bylaws at the January 9th, 2009 Special Council Meeting, the overall initiative was discussed at the February 6th council meeting.

The topic was introduced by the circulation to council of a letter of support from the BC Pharmacy Association Board asking the college to pursue its’ current strategic objective to regulate pharmacy technicians. During discussions several councillors raised concerns regarding the readiness (knowledge, skills and abilities) of current technicians for regulation given the proposed scope of practice and the timeline for the initiative.

It was moved, seconded and carried that: *a Pharmacy Technician Task Group be struck to review and recommend how Pharmacy Technician education, certification, scope of practice, standardization and competencies will be implemented in BC.*

All stakeholder groups will be represented in the Task Group which will include two college council members (Chris Hunter, who will chair the group and Agnes Fridl Poljak).

Council representation on Monitoring Adapting Prescriptions (MAP) Task Force:

Councillor Chris Hunter will join representatives from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the BC Medical Association (along with other prescriber groups), the BC Pharmacy Association, the Ministry of Health Services and college staff as a member of the MAP Task Force.

The mandate of the MAP Task Force is to identify issues and/or opportunities arising from pharmacists’ new authority to adapt or renew prescriptions and make recommendations to the college registrar.



Council delays the next PDAP cycle until September 2010:

Supporting a recommendation from the Board of Examiners (BOE) council has decided to delay the start of the next Professional Development and Assessment Program (PDAP) cycle from its scheduled date of September 2009 to September 2010.

The rationale for this is to allow for the BOE to complete their current PDAP program evaluation, which includes the CE-Plus tool, and report back to council early in 2010 with their findings and recommendations for the PDAP program going forward.

Council takes further action towards removal of tobacco from pharmacies:

The college is continuing government relations initiatives, designed to influence legislative changes that will restrict the sale of tobacco in pharmacies. Additionally, council directed college staff to coordinate a meeting with retail chain drug executives to inform them of our intent to move this objective forward and ask for their voluntary support.

College and BCPhA will partner in a public awareness campaign:

In line with the college's strategic objective of increasing the *public's understanding of the role and value of the pharmacist*, council agreed to support a budget of \$100K towards a joint provincial advertising campaign with the BC Pharmacy Association.

The theme for the campaign, which will primarily include radio ads throughout the province, will focus on the message of: Get to Know Your Pharmacist – the more they know, the more they can help.

Code of Ethics review underway:

Given pharmacists recent enhanced scope of practice and subsequent evolving practice environments a review of the college's Code of Ethics has been undertaken. Councillor Bev Harris has been appointed to work with the Staff Working Group on this initiative.

Council communication to registrants:

Although appreciating the importance of ensuring that council communicates to registrants with 'one-voice', a number of councillors expressed a desire to explore ways of improving communications regarding council matters to registrants.

Alternatives to the current Council Highlights document will be presented to council at the March meeting for their consideration.