



March 27th, 2009

Council Highlights

The Council of the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC) met for their regularly scheduled council meeting at the CPBC office in Vancouver, BC on March 27th, 2009. This was the last meeting of Council prior to the transition to a Board under the *Health Professions Act* which took effect April 1, 2009. The following *Council Highlights* summarize the key initiatives discussed.

Review and Update of College's Governance Policy Manual:

After further discussion and consideration council decided that rather than conducting the review and update of the College's Governance Policy Manual themselves they will engage the services of an outside consultant, with experience in this area, to guide them in the process.

Pharmacy Technician Regulation:

As requested by council in the February 6, 2009 council meeting, a Pharmacy Technician Task Group, chaired by Councillor Chris Hunter with representatives from key stakeholder groups as approved by Council, had been struck to: *review and recommend how Pharmacy Technician Education, Certification, Scope of Practice, Standardization and Competencies will be implemented in BC.*

The Task Group met on March 26th, 2009. Although Council was not expecting a report with recommendations back from the Task Group until their June 2009 meeting, the Chair reported that the Task Group felt that they had satisfied their mandate and had therefore concluded their recommendations which were as follows:

- To accept the national scope of practice (with the stipulation that further guidelines be established regarding the receipt of verbal orders), and;
- Accept the national competencies and standardization that has been established, and;
- Accept the national PEBC exam as the basis for entry-to-practice, and;
- Require future pharmacy technician students to complete a CCAPP accredited pharmacy technician training program as one of the requirements for pharmacy technician regulation, and;
- Mandate bridging programs for current pharmacy technicians wishing to be regulated, following the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) model depending on the outcomes of the CPBC focus group sessions.

Although it was outside of the mandate of the Task Group to provide a recommendation specific to the 'regulation' of pharmacy technicians the Chair informed Council that there was a strong consensus amongst the Task Group participants that regulation is the only way to proceed in order to achieve the mandate. The report was concluded by advising council that further direction or clarification from them is required for the Task Group to continue and as such a second meeting date had not been set.



Even though there was a motion to accept the recommendations of the Task Group, given the importance of this initiative and the fact that recommendations were not expected until the June 2009 board meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried that the motion be brought forward to the June meeting.

Monitoring Adapting Prescriptions (MAP) Task Force update:

The MAP Task Force held their first meeting on February 27th, 2009 at the CPBC offices with representatives from all major prescriber groups, the BC Medical Association, the BC Pharmacy Association and the Ministry.

As part of the meeting the Task Force reviewed preliminary (first 6-weeks) pharmacist adaptation data which showed that over 12,000 prescriptions, from every region of the province, had been adapted and over 80% of those adaptations were renewals. It was also reported that to date there has been no official complaints received by the College of Pharmacists of BC regarding the adaptation of a prescription by a pharmacist.

Council communication to registrants:

In an effort to improve consistent and timely communication from council to registrants the council agreed to a new format and distribution for *Council Highlights*. In keeping with the transition to the HPA the highlights will be called *Board Highlights* and the content will be approved by the Board immediately following each meeting. In addition to having a new 'look and feel' the *Board Highlights* will be distributed both electronically (within days of the Board meetings) and in hard copy as an insert to the next *ReadLinks* mailing. This process will begin with the June 2009 Board meeting.

