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College of Pharmacists of BC recognizes first Pharmacy Technician Registrants

Vancouver, BC – Earlier today, at a recognition celebration held in conjunction with their regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Board of the College of Pharmacists of BC (the College) officially welcomed, from across the province, the inaugural group of pharmacy technician registrants to the College.

The regulation process, which has been underway for nearly a decade, establishes a pharmacy technician as an independent healthcare professional and new registrant of the College who, as prescribed in legislation, is responsible, accountable and liable for a defined scope of practice related to the technical aspects of product preparation and drug distribution. To be eligible to become a pharmacy technician registrant, individuals must have completed the required education and successfully met entry-to-practice standards.

Acknowledging this group as pioneers, Board Chair Randy Konrad congratulated them on their achievement and reminded them of the importance and significance of their new role. *“As an integral member of the healthcare team, like all regulated healthcare professionals, you must remain committed to upholding your legal and ethical obligation to protect and promote the health and well-being of your patients.”*

Encouraging these new registrants to practice to the full extent of their scope and competence, College Registrar Marshall Moleschi acknowledged; *“your ability to take responsibility for the technical aspects of product preparation will allow pharmacists to practice to their full scope in the provision of clinical services which will have a net benefit of enhancing health outcomes for patients.”*

The Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Health, in his personal message and greeting to this inaugural group of pharmacy technician registrants, summarized by stating; *“regulated pharmacy technicians will play a critical role in the health-care system, taking on increased responsibility in the workplace and providing pharmacists with more time to assess and counsel patients and help them best manage and understand their drug therapies.”*

The regulation of pharmacy technicians, which follows a national process, is on a voluntary basis and is expected to progress slowly as technicians who choose to, complete the comprehensive educational requirements of the program. The inaugural group included 21 technicians and it is anticipated that the College may register up to 100 pharmacy technician registrants before the end of this calendar year with 100 to 200 more next year. Further details on the process can be found on the College website at www.bcpharmacists.org.

About the College: The College of Pharmacists of BC is the regulatory body for pharmacy in British Columbia and is responsible for registering pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and licensing pharmacies throughout the province. The College’s mandate is to protect the public by ensuring pharmacy registrants provide safe and effective pharmacy care to help people achieve better health.

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