



**2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
November 25, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD**

College Chair Kwong called the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia to order at 9:55 a.m. Chair Kwong welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced herself as the new Chair.

Chair Kwong introduced Board members in attendance, College Registrar Bob Nakagawa, and other College staff in attendance.

Chair Kwong noted that notice of the AGM was sent out on October 13, 2017, thus meeting the three week bylaw requirement. She also confirmed that the required quorum of 25 registrants had been met, and the meeting was duly convened.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – NOVEMBER 19, 2016**

The November 19, 2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Chair Kwong reminded registrants that the audited and Board approved financial statements were available for review on the College website and asked if there were any comments or questions pertaining to them. Hearing no questions, Chair Kwong noted the financial statements will be placed on file.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Past Chair Dossa provided the following report:

**Cultural Humility and Safety**

*The College of Pharmacists of BC would like to acknowledge and thank the Coast Salish People on whose traditional territories we are gathered.*

*We are grateful to carry out our work on the ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (pronounced slay-wa-tooth) First Nations*

I'd like to start by thanking my fellow Board members, as well as all the College staff for their hard work and continuing to help make significant strides toward the provision of quality pharmacy care in BC. The College has been hard at work this year. We unscheduled naloxone in response to BC's growing opioid crisis; made major progress with our pharmacist prescribing initiative; and celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



## **Practice Review Program - Phase 1 and Launch of Phase 2**

I'd first like to acknowledge the efforts of our Practice Review Team.

The College also launched the second phase of the Practice Review Program (or PRP) in Hospital settings at its meeting in November 2016. Originally introduced in community practice in February 2015, the PRP has been a success, with the majority of pharmacy professionals reporting a positive impact on their practice and increased familiarity with the College's bylaws and policies. Expanding the program into hospital settings has allowed us to continue to engage with incredible pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across the province.

## **Pharmacist Prescribing - What's happened/ and most recent decision**

Another major initiative for both the Board and College staff over the past year has been Certified Pharmacist Prescribing.

The College is now in the final stages of developing a Framework for Pharmacist Prescribing in BC which aims to help protect patient safety and improve patient outcomes.

In fact, at our last meeting, the Board approved the submission of a proposal for pharmacist prescribing in BC to the Minister of Health, requesting amendments to the Pharmacists Regulation under the Health Professions Act. The submission will include the final Framework for Pharmacist Prescribing, and the Certified Pharmacist Prescriber.

The College's Registrar, Bob Nakagawa, will go into more detail regarding this initiative when he presents the Registrar's Report.

## **Opioid Crisis**

BC's opioid crisis has also been a major priority for the College over the past year. As you are all aware, in the past two years, BC has experienced an unprecedented spike in opioid-related deaths, almost 60% of which are linked to the opioid-based painkiller fentanyl.

In response to this, the College amended BC's Drug Schedules Regulation to un-schedule naloxone, making it available for purchase anywhere by anyone. As a result, BC became the first province in Canada to make non-prescription naloxone available outside of pharmacies.

## **PODSA**

Finally, the College has also been hard at work on New Requirements for Pharmacy Ownership. These changes permit the College to know the identity of all pharmacy owners, determine their suitability for pharmacy ownership, and hold them accountable for providing safe and effective care by ensuring their pharmacies are compliant with the legislative requirements for pharmacies in BC. These new requirements are planned to come into effect in 2018.

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Registrar Nakagawa provided the following report:

### Cultural Humility and Safety

- The College pledges its commitment to making our health system more culturally safe for First Nations and Aboriginal people.
- We believe that cultural safety and humility are vital for the provision of fair and equal health services, as well as the creation of a healthcare environment free of racism and discrimination.
- On March 1 of this year, I joined the rest of province's health regulators in signing the *"Declaration of Cultural Safety and Humility in Health Services Delivery for First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples in BC."*
- This declaration commits the College to advancing cultural safety and humility for Indigenous people among regulated health professionals by committing to actions and processes which will ultimately embed culturally safe practices within all levels of professional health regulation.

### Practice Review Program - Phase 1 and Launch of Phase 2

- We're moving into our 3<sup>rd</sup> year since the implementation of the Practice Review Program in 2015.
- As you know, these are an in-person review of a pharmacy professional's practice and the pharmacy where they work.
- The College implemented the Practice Review Program in community pharmacy in February 2015 and recently launched Phase 2 which expanded it to include hospital pharmacies, with the first hospital reviews taking place in April 2017.
- Since the program's inception, registrants have been asked to complete a feedback survey in order to provide their thoughts on the practice review program as a whole, as well as the different aspects of the review process, after completing their review.
- The College recently reviewed the feedback from Community practice reviews which was overwhelmingly positive - overall Agreement was 91% positive.
- Agreement Ratings for the individual aspects of the program were also overwhelmingly positive:
  - Compliance Officers: 98% Agreement Rating
  - PRP Tools for Pharmacy Managers: 92% Agreement Rating
  - Pharmacy Manager Pre-Review: 85% Agreement Rating
  - Scheduling: 94% Agreement Rating
  - Pharmacy Review: 93% Agreement Rating
  - Pharmacy Review Results: 96% Agreement Rating
  - PRP Tools for Pharmacy Professionals: 91% Agreement Rating
  - Pharmacy Professionals Review: 92% Agreement Rating
- Phase 2 of the Practice Review Program will build on this success and allow us to continue to effectively protect public safety.

### Pharmacist Prescribing - What's happened/ and most recent decision

- Significant strides were made in the Certified Pharmacist Prescriber Initiative.
- Development of a framework and proposal for pharmacist prescribing dates back to 2010 when the Board first decided to move forward with a feasibility study.
- The College used the initial Draft Framework to engage with pharmacy professionals, other prescribers and the public on pharmacists prescribing role in preventing patient harm and increasing access to drug therapy.

- After conducting a stakeholder engagement between February and August of 2016 that received more than 11,400 comments, the College Board approved narrowing the scope of the proposal to prescribing within collaborative practice.
- Collaborative practice would include interdisciplinary team-based settings where physicians and nurse practitioners continue to be responsible for the diagnosis; and where access to health records and diagnostics, including lab tests, would also be required.
- Certified Pharmacists Prescribers would also be restricted from dispensing medications they prescribed for a patient.
- Recently, the College sought feedback on the new framework for pharmacist prescribing which focuses more closely on collaborative practice.
- The second engagement on pharmacist prescribing was conducted through June to October 2017, with feedback sought under four key themes:
  - Confidence in pharmacist prescribing
  - Collaboration
  - Improving Patient Care
  - Support for Pharmacist Prescribing
- Overall, most stakeholder groups had confidence in pharmacist prescribing in BC. Feedback indicated strong support for implementing pharmacist prescribing to help care for patients from pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and members of the public.
- Physicians illustrated strong resistance, while others (such as nurses and nurse practitioners) indicated support for pharmacist prescribing.
- This pattern was consistent across the four key themes of confidence in pharmacists prescribing, collaboration, improving patient care, and support for pharmacist prescribing.
- The greatest convergence across stakeholder groups surrounded the opportunities for greater collaboration in caring for patients as well as the ability to help protect patient safety and improve patient outcomes.
- In particular respondents noted that pharmacist prescribing would be beneficial for chronic disease management as well as minor ailments and prescription renewals and increased monitoring and management of drug therapy.
- At our most recent Board meeting, the Board approved the submission of a proposal for pharmacist prescribing in BC to the Minister of Health, requesting amendments to the Pharmacists Regulation under the Health Professions Act. The submission will include the final Framework for Pharmacist Prescribing in BC and the Certified Pharmacist Prescriber Engagement Report.

## Opioid Crisis

- In 2016, due to a significant increase in drug related overdoses and deaths, BC's Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency.
- BC was the first province to take this kind of action in response to the current drug overdose public health crisis.
- With the surge in illicit fentanyl partly responsible, the province experienced 931 unintentional overdose deaths in 2016.
- In response to the opioid crisis, the College amended the BC's Drug Schedules Regulation twice.
- In February 2016, the College approved rescheduling naloxone, from Schedule I (prescription only) to Schedule II when used for emergency opioid overdoses outside hospitals. This meant that naloxone would be available as an "over the counter" medication for emergency situations.
- In September 2016, the College's second amendment to the Drug Schedules Regulation made naloxone "unscheduled" when used for opioid emergencies. This allowed naloxone to be made available outside of pharmacies and to be purchased by anyone. As a result of the College's actions, British Columbians can more easily access this life-saving drug.
- BC was the first province in Canada to make naloxone available outside of pharmacies.

## PODSA

- In May 2016, the Provincial Government approved amendments to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act.
- These changes permit the College to know the identity of all pharmacy owners, determine their suitability for pharmacy ownership and to hold them accountable for providing safe and effective care by ensuring their pharmacies are compliant with legislative requirements for pharmacies in BC.
- At its most recent meeting, the board approved amendments to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act (PODSA) Bylaws regarding pharmacy ownership and consequential amendments to the previously filed telepharmacy bylaws for filing with the Ministry of Health.
- The new requirements are planned to come into effect in early 2018.

## Compounding

- The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) has been working to develop a series of new model standards for pharmacy compounding.
- So far, two documents have been released on hazardous and non-hazardous sterile preparations with the third, focused on non-sterile preparations, expected later in 2017. These standards are being implemented across Canada.
- The College has set out a four-year implementation plan for pharmacies and pharmacy professionals to adopt the new model standards for pharmacy compounding recently released by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA).
- Those who compound sterile preparations will want to follow the four-year phased approach to ensure they meet all the requirements by May 2021, when the new bylaws come into effect.
- In order to inform the College's approach to implementing the new standards, we sought input from pharmacy professionals and developed a Gap Identification Tool to assess the gaps between NAPRA's new model standards and current pharmacy practice.

## Growth

- (Numbers reflect the data in the College's Annual Report 2016/17)
- Overall
  - As I mentioned, the number of pharmacies and pharmacy professionals continues to increase.
  - We registered nearly 400 new pharmacists, 110 new pharmacy technicians, and over 50 new pharmacies.
  - We also have over 4800 pharmacists and 4<sup>th</sup> year pharmacy students authorized to administer injections.
  - TOTAL: 1312 community pharmacies and 69 hospital pharmacies
- Registered Pharmacists
  - Total Active: 5,853
- Pharmacy Technicians
  - 1416 pharmacy technicians were registered

## Closing remarks

- I look forward to working together with registrants and the Board in the year ahead. Please continue to share your ideas and feedback with us.
- It is an honour and a privilege to serve as Registrar of the College.



- I would also like to thank my staff who were introduced earlier for their support and dedication in ensuring the College continues to move forward with its important work.

## **REPORT OF BOARD ELECTIONS**

College elections were held in the fall.

The College would like to thank pharmacists in Metropolitan Vancouver (District 1), Vancouver Island/Coastal (District 3), Northern BC (District 5), and Community Hospitals (District 7) that voted in the 2017 Board elections.

Over 23.3% (650 votes) of the 2794 eligible registrants in District 1, 3 and 7 voted in the elections. The College would like to thank everyone who took the time to help select the best representatives from each district to join the College Board.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the following Board members on being re-elected to the Board for a 2-year term:

- Mona Kwong, Chair, District 1
- Tara Oxford, District 3
- Frank Lucarelli, District 5
- Arden Barry District 7

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kwong thanked the assembly for attending and participating in the College of Pharmacists of BC's 126<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, and adjourned the meeting at 10:21 am.