



**2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
November 22, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD**

College Chair Kwong called the 127<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia to order at 6:07pm. Chair Kwong welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced herself as the 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 November 1, 2018 thus meeting the three week bylaw requirement. She also confirmed that the required quorum of 25 registrants had been met, with 51 registrants in attendance and the meeting was duly convened.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – NOVEMBER 25, 2017**

It was moved by Ming Chang, District 2 Board Member and seconded by Tara Oxford, District 3 Board Member that:

*Approve the November 25, 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes as circulated.*

**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**

Chair Kwong provided the following report:

**Cultural Humility and Safety**

The College recognizes 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, where individuals feel safe and respected.

I'm pleased that we've made a formal commitment to cultural safety and humility alongside BC's other health regulators – and are beginning to take action on it.

This represents a vital first step toward achieving our collective BC health systems goal of culturally safe health services for Indigenous Peoples in BC.

I encourage you to read through the Cultural Humility and Safety reflections in our annual report to learn about our progress last year.



## **Opioid Crisis**

The opioid crisis continues to be a top priority for us and other public health organizations across the province. BC's opioid overdose crisis has continued its unprecedented escalation over the past three years.

2017 saw a total of 1,448 illicit-drug overdose deaths, compared with 991 in 2016 and 522 in 2015.

More than 80% of overdose deaths in 2017 involved the opioid Fentanyl, with the majority of those deaths occurring in Vancouver, Surrey and Victoria.

I will let the College's Registrar go into more specific detail about some of the initiatives that College has been worked on in tackling this issue, specifically with regard to access to naloxone.

Whether naloxone is provided at a community pharmacy, or by purchase, pharmacists play a vital role in helping provide this life-saving drug to those who may need it, together with training in overdose recognition and response. I also encourage all of us as pharmacy professionals to help combat stigma for all impacted individuals by continuing to recognize how our attitudes and judgements affect how we think about and behave toward others, and by learning how to use respectful "person-first" language.

## **Certified Pharmacist Prescribing**

Certified Pharmacist Prescribing continued to be a major initiative for both the Board and College staff over the past year.

We conducted another engagement from June through to October 2017 in order to give patients, pharmacy professionals and other health professionals an opportunity to provide their input and share their thoughts on how pharmacist prescribing in collaborative practice relationships could work to help care for patients in BC, and I'm pleased to say that we saw increased confidence in Pharmacist Prescribing from all stakeholder groups.

I'm also pleased to say that at our November 2017 meeting, the College Board approved the Framework to for Pharmacist Prescribing in BC, to be submitted to the Minister of Health. The College's Registrar, Bob Nakagawa, will go into more detail regarding this initiative when he presents the Registrar's Report.

## **New Pharmacy Ownership Requirements**

In May 2016, the Provincial Government approved amendments to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act.

These changes require 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 legislative requirements for pharmacies in BC.

While the majority of people involved in pharmacies are honest and ethical, the College needs to have the authority to protect the public from unscrupulous pharmacy owners and operations that put patient safety at risk.

I'm happy to report that these amendments officially came into effect on April 1, 2018.

I'd like to acknowledge all College staff involved in this project for their hard work and dedication in bringing this initiative to fruition.



## **Compounding Standards**

The College has set out a four-year implementation plan for pharmacies and pharmacy professionals to adopt the new model standards for compounding of sterile preparations, recently released by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA).

These new standards include Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-hazardous Sterile Preparations, and Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Hazardous Sterile Preparations.

Allowing individual ingredients to be mixed together in personalized strengths and dosages based on a patient's needs plays an important role in pharmacy practice. Standards are needed to ensure preparation quality and safety when compounding drugs for patients.

The College recommends that those who compound sterile preparations follow the four-year implementation timeline to ensure they meet all the requirements by May 2021, when the new bylaws are expected to come into effect.

A third and final Model Standards document for non-sterile preparations was released by NAPRA in March 2018. The College will be developing a proposed implementation plan for Board consideration, in due course.

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

## **New Requirements for Telepharmacies in BC**

Telepharmacy is the delivery of pharmacy services, including the dispensing of medications and provision of patient counselling, via telecommunications, to patients in locations where they may not have local access to a pharmacist.

A pharmacy technician at the remote site prepares prescription drugs for dispensing by the pharmacist, while the pharmacist at the central site reviews the patient's profile and performs the clinical check of the medication for appropriateness. The pharmacist also communicates face-to-face with patients for medication counselling through real-time audio-video conferencing technology.

Although remote sites are operated by pharmacy technicians without a full pharmacist physically on-site, the pharmacist at the central site directly supervises all activities at the remote site through the use of real time audio/video technology.

In November, 2017, amendments to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act Bylaws regarding telepharmacies as well as new Telepharmacy Standards of Practice came into effect to strengthen public safety in the delivery of this type of service.

The bylaw amendments and new Telepharmacy Standards of Practice increase the security of drugs and confidential health information and ensure patients receive safe and effective care at telepharmacies.

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



## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Registrar Nakagawa provided the following report:

### **Cultural Humility and Safety**

On March 2017, I had the honour of joining 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."

Though this, the College pledged its commitment to making our health system more culturally safe for First Nations and Aboriginal people.

Since then, the College has worked on developing a strategy to fulfill its pledge to improve BC pharmacy professionals' work with First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples over the past fiscal year.

Moving forward, we recognize that working together with the First Nations Health Authority, other health regulators, pharmacy associations, First Nations groups, and others will be essential to act on our plan and create a healthcare environment free of racism and discrimination, where individuals feel safe and respected.

In February 2018, the College was fortunate to be a part of the first Mental Health and Wellness Summit hosted by the First Nations Health Authority.

First Nations in BC have been disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis, so as an exhibitor, the College used this opportunity to spread awareness of emergency use Naloxone, its importance in helping prevent opioid overdose deaths, and what we've done to make it more accessible to the public.

As Mona mentioned, I encourage you to learn more about our progress of cultural humility and safety in our annual report.

### **Opioid Overdose Crisis**

In 2016, due to a significant increase in drug related overdoses and deaths, BC's Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency.

Since then, the College has been hard at work, first making Naloxone available without a prescription in 2016, and then working to make it as accessible as possible.

Naloxone is an antidote to opioid overdose that works by temporarily reversing the effects of an opioid overdose, restoring normal breathing and consciousness within 1 to 5 minutes of injection, preventing death or brain damage caused by lack of oxygen

In the past year, the College has engaged in a number of independent and collaborative efforts to raise awareness of naloxone, fentanyl and BC's overdose crisis. This included a comprehensive, dedicated resource page outlining naloxone, its use and availability, as well as a number of articles written both by the College, as well as other BC health organizations invested in combatting the overdose crisis.

In December 2017, the Take Home Naloxone program, originally started by the BCCDC, was extended to community pharmacies to help provide more kits free of charge to people who use substances or are likely to witness an overdose.

There are currently 1563 participating Take Home Naloxone sites in BC, including 779 registered pharmacies.

These kits are available through the Take Home Naloxone program, at no cost, to:

- Individuals at risk of an opioid overdose
- Individuals likely to witness and respond to an overdose such as a family member or friend of someone at risk

The College also continued its naloxone Campaign, using social media and digital advertising, to help share these resources and build awareness of how to use naloxone to save a life.

### **New Guideline for the Clinical Management of Opioid Use Disorder.**

In early 2017, the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, released a new guideline for the Clinical Management of Opioid Use Disorder.

On June 5, 2017, this guideline became the provincial reference tool for all health care professionals in BC involved in treating patients with opioid use disorders.

The guideline recommends Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®) as the preferred first-line pharmacotherapy for treating patients with an opioid use disorder; Methadone as a second line option when buprenorphine/naloxone is contraindicated or unfeasible, and slow-release oral morphine as a third line option when both the first and second-line treatments are ineffective.

To support the new opioid agonist treatment options, Professional Practice Policy-66 was amended to include policy guides for Buprenorphine/Naloxone Maintenance Treatment and Slow Release Oral Morphine Maintenance Treatment. The existing policy guide for Methadone Maintenance Treatment continues to be in effect.

The policy amendments and two new guides came into effect on January 1, 2018.

### **New Pharmacy Ownership Requirements**

New Pharmacy Ownership Requirements requiring the College to know the identity of all pharmacy owners, determine their suitability for pharmacy ownership and ensuring their pharmacies are compliant with legislative requirements for pharmacies in BC came into effect earlier this year.

Some of the key changes to PODSA include:

- Distinguishes between “direct owners” and “indirect owners”
- Broadens the meaning of “pharmacy” and “pharmacy licence”
- Sets eligibility requirements to hold a pharmacy licence
- Establishes a new Application Committee to review licence applications that do not meet the requirements of the Act and bylaws
- Adds requirements for direct owners, indirect owners and managers to provide Criminal Record History
- Requires direct owners, indirect owners and managers to comply with duties under the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act and Health Professions Act

The first pharmacies to complete their pharmacy licence renewal under the new requirements were those whose licence expired on June 30, 2018.



## College Engagement

The College has conducted a number of stakeholder engagement to help us solicit input on College initiatives, policies and bylaws including:

- Pharmacist Prescribing in BC
- New Telepharmacy Requirements
- New Pharmacy Ownership Requirements
- Palliative Care Home Kits
- Electronic Record Keeping

Through these stakeholder engagements, the College was able to gather significant input and feedback from patients, pharmacy professionals, pharmacy students and other health professionals, helping us to gauge sentiment, identify gaps, and inform our plans.

The College would like to thank all those who provided feedback and shared their thoughts during our various engagements in 2017.

## New Pharmacy Security Requirements

In February 2017, the College Board approved amendments to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act bylaws to establish minimum security measures for community pharmacies as well as revisions to *Professional Practice Policy 74: Community Pharmacy and Telepharmacy Security*.

The amended bylaws which include new provisions for physical barriers came into effect on April 1, 2018.

The Vancouver Police Department first brought concerns to the College following an escalating number of community pharmacy robberies. As a result, the College acted fast to introduce initial pharmacy security policies through [PPP 74](#) and the [DrugSafeBC program](#), followed eventually by new bylaws.

Recently, the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR), presented the College with the 2018 Regulatory Excellence Award for our work on pharmacy security.

I'd like to once again thank all those who contributed to the initiative, as well as CLEAR for recognizing our work.

This award helps to reinforce the important impact that our work on pharmacy security has had on public safety in communities across the province.

## New Board Election Cycles and Terms of Office

At its November 2017 meeting, the College Board approved amendments to the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws to change the terms of office for elected Board members from two years to three years, and the maximum number of consecutive terms served by elected board members from three to two.

Elections are now held on a three-year cycle. Elections for four of the eight electoral districts will be held in each of the first two years of the cycle, and no elections will be held in the third year.



The changes will begin with the November 2018 elections with Board members from even-numbered electoral districts (District 2, 4, 6 and 8).

Extending the term of office from two to three years, provides more consistency in the membership of the Board, providing Board members more time to learn and grow within their roles.

### **College Name Change**

In 2016 the College facilitated a stakeholder engagement process to obtain input on a potential College name change.

Respondents indicated that the current name of the College is not representative of all registrants, and could be misleading about who/ what the College regulates.

- The greatest level of support for a change of name for the College came from pharmacy technicians.
- However, there was a fair amount of support for retaining the College's current name, particularly because the College is already a well-established entity in pharmacy regulation.

This year (June 14, 2018) the College sent a letter to the Ministry of Health, requesting that they amend the name of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia.

Health Minister Adrian Dix chose not to grant the request at this time citing the many priorities of the ministry as well as the high volume of other initiatives in its work to protect and care for the health of the public in BC.

We believe that providing clarity on the multiple ways the College is involved in pharmacy regulation is essential to our duty to protect the public, and are disappointed that the Ministry has decided not to explore a name change at this time.

We continue to hope that the Ministry will consider a name change at a more opportune time

### **REPORT OF BOARD ELECTIONS**

The College would like to thank pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the Fraser Valley (District 2), Kootenay/Okanagan (District 4), Urban Hospitals (District 6), and Pharmacy Technicians (District 8) that voted in the 2018 Board elections.

Over **21% (927 votes)** of the 4369 eligible registrants in District 2, 4, 6 and 8 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 candidates on being elected to the Board for a 3-year term:

- Christine Antler, District 2
- Steven Hopp, District 4
- Anca Cvaci, District 6
- Bal Dhillon, District 8

*These candidates will begin their terms at the beginning of the November 2018 Board meeting, tomorrow morning*



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**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kwong thanked everyone for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm