

Board Highlights



Our Vision:

Better health through excellence in pharmacy.

Our Mission:

The College regulates the pharmacy profession in the public interest. We set and enforce standards and promote best practices for the delivery of pharmacy care in British Columbia.

Anar Dossa Shares Message as New Chair

I am honoured and privileged to be elected Chair of the College of Pharmacists of BC. My goal is to continue with the good work that has been done and build on that foundation to seize future opportunities. Together with pharmacy technicians – who are taking on the added accountability and responsibility that comes with their regulated status – pharmacists will be able to practice to their full scope more so than ever before. I look forward to continuing to invest in our registrants so that they are able to provide the best possible pharmacy care and ensure public safety. Medication regimens are becoming increasingly more complicated and with this comes the opportunity to get more involved. For instance, a member of the public recently told me that he was involved in a casual conversation with cardiologists and the topic was how the cardiologists just *loved* the pharmacist they had on the team! I believe there are opportunities to work more collaboratively both within the pharmacy team and with all other healthcare professions, and I look forward to being able to facilitate that collaboration.

Anar Dossa and Blair Tymchuk are the College's new Chair and Vice-Chair

Elections were held for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair at the November Board meeting. Anar Dossa and Blair Tymchuk were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively and were appointed to one-year terms.

This was the first time that the Board Chair and Vice-Chair elections were conducted electronically. The College sends well wishes to former Chair Doug Kipp and former Vice-Chair Bev Harris for their service, and welcomes new Board members Ming Chang (District 2) and Blake Reynolds (District 4) as they begin their terms.

Review of Board Elections

The Board has established a working group to review the new process used in the most recent elections held in District 2 (Fraser Valley), District 4 (Southern Interior) and District 8 (Pharmacy Technicians). This past year marks the first time the College used an electronic voting system rather than the traditional mail-in paper voting ballot. The working group will be looking at areas where process or communications improvements could be made.

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The Board was also informed that voting rates for District 2 and District 4 was similar to that of previous year's elections, with District 2 reporting a slightly higher percentage of eligible votes being cast and District 4 reporting a slightly lower percentage. District 8, however, showed substantially lower percentage of eligible votes being cast, however this district has more than doubled in size since the previous election in 2012.

Pharmacy Technician Integration

Over 800 pharmacy technicians have registered with the College since becoming regulated, and ensuring their effective integration is a key goal for the College. At this past meeting, the Board approved an action plan to be prepared for the April 16-17, 2015 Board meeting that includes:

- Enhanced communications to pharmacists, other health professionals, and the public to help them better understand the role of a pharmacy technician by explaining the scope of practice and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for it;
- An evaluation of the implementation of pharmacy technician regulation looking at the impact that regulation has made to ensure the enhanced responsibility and accountability for these professionals have been met; and
- Take steps to ensure that compliance officers visiting pharmacies for the Practice Review Program fully understand the role of pharmacy technicians and their scope of practice.

UBC Continuing Pharmacy Professional Development Educational Needs Assessment

UBC CPPD will be providing additional opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to further their knowledge based on information provided during a needs assessment survey that was conducted earlier this Fall. Opportunities to enhance collaborative care skills and knowledge was a key priority that will be addressed as a result of this research. The College would like to thank those pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who took the time to complete the survey.

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Delegation of Depot Injections Pilot

The Board has approved the administration of depot injections by pharmacists when delegated by psychiatrist Dr. Bill MacEwan for the purpose of a 12-month pilot aimed at lowering the barrier of accessing depot injections for mental health patients in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The pilot will be a partnership between Dr. MacEwan and pharmacists employed by Pier Health Resource Centre. The pilot is well aligned with two strategic goals in the College's Strategic Plan and will inform future changes to the Standards, Limits and Conditions of Injection Authority for Pharmacists.

Practice Review Committee Welcomes New Public Members

The Board has appointed former Langley Mayor John Scholtens, and Joanne Konnert, RN, who previously served as Vice President of Tertiary Services for Interior Health, as the two new public members serving on the Practice Review Committee. The Practice Review Committee has a requirement that one-third of its members be public members, mirroring statutory committees such as the Quality Assurance Committee and the Inquiry Committee. This requirement exists to ensure that the public perspective is present at all levels of College policy and program development processes.

Keeping Informed on Strategic Objectives

The Board was updated on a number of the College's strategic plan goals and objectives including ADAPT and e-therapeutics Complete, ongoing inquiry and discipline cases, uptake on current UBC CPPD offerings, and the Advanced Practice Pharmacist designation.