



## **Highlights of the October 29, 2010 Meeting of Council**

The regular meeting of Council held October 29, 2010 in Regina was a transition of sorts – Council bade farewell to their first Executive Director, Lily Stonehouse, and welcomed incoming Executive Director, Sheri Hupp. Council members Brent Stewart, Bob Fenner, Steve Winik, Cari Evenson-Carleton, Karen Todd and Jamie Struthers attended the meeting. Highlights follow.

### **Meeting with SEMSA**

President Brent Stewart reported on a meeting of the SEMSA and SCoP Executive Committees. SEMSA raised concerns about access to exams in a timely manner for ACP graduates. Council determined that, if necessary, a special sitting of the ACP exam would be scheduled in late December or early January. SEMSA was also concerned to be included in the reconstituted Provincial Emergency Services Practice Committee (PESPC) and this has been ensured. The two organizations will meet again in the new year.

### **Licensing Fees for 2012**

Council approved the licensing fee for 2012 at \$435. Based on the *Administrative Bylaws* and accompanying College policy, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September of each year is used to determine the fee, rounded up to the nearest \$5, for the licensing year 15 months in the future. The CPI for September, 2010, was 1.9%, which, when applied to the current \$425 fee raises the fee to \$435. Members are reminded that the 2011 fee remains at \$425 based on last year's CPI. This fee setting process was adopted by Council to ensure that members and employers had more than a year's notice of any fee increase.

### **Continuing Medical Education**

Council decided to adopt and proceed with CME Requirements for the 2012 licence renewal based on the consultation undertaken during the summer on the proposed requirements. These CME Requirements for next year include training in optional protocols. They remove the ALS requirement for vagal maneuvers and two of the EMT mandatory skills because these skills are part of the ITLS certification which is now mandatory for EMTs. The biggest change, however, is a result of the amendments to the *Regulatory Bylaws* so that Medical Advisor sign off is no longer required for ALS skills. Beginning in 2011 the mandatory certifications (ITLS Advanced, ACLS and PALS) will be accepted as evidence of having been assessed in these required ALS skills.

### **Licensing Exams**

Council reviewed the results of e-survey consultations with EMRs and stakeholders noting the strong level of response, the general support for an EMR exam, and the concerns regarding cost and

access. Council approved recommendations from the Registration Committee to proceed with the development of an EMR exam over the coming year drawing on the assistance of the many volunteers who came forward through the e-survey.

The Registration committee had also recommended, and Council endorsed, development of Jurisprudence Exams at all four licence levels to be implemented prior to the adoption of any national licensing exam. A national exam will not include provincial legislation or protocols – this must be assessed at the local level.

### **Anonymous Complaints**

Council reviewed a report from the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) regarding issues with investigation of anonymous complaints. Council endorsed the suggestion of the PCC that they make decisions regarding whether to investigate anonymous complaints on the basis of the following criteria:

- a. The complaint has sufficient information to support an effective investigation; **and**
- b. The complaint raises serious issues of public safety; or
- c. The complaint raises issues of patient safety; or
- d. The complaint alleges criminal conduct.

Council agreed that the committee should increase efforts to educate our members to encourage written, signed complaints which provide specific and sufficient information to enable a proper investigation. Member education should make the point that complaining anonymously impedes our ability to investigate; underscore the member's responsibility to raise issues and stand behind their complaint, and balance that with the responsibility not to impugn another member's character. The education should emphasize that complaints should not be used for malicious purposes and clarify that making vexatious or frivolous complaints is professional misconduct.

### **Registration Policies and Fees**

Council reviewed recommendations from the Audit and Registration Committees regarding a number of interim registration policies and fees. Council discontinued the policy which granted First Responders a Restricted EMR Licence for 6 months while they completed EMR training. No one has applied on this basis during the past 6 months. Council also discontinued the policy which granted additional fee reductions to recent graduates applying for initial registration in the last quarter of the year. The fee prorating in the last quarter will continue to apply.

Council also approved policy to reflect the current practice of requiring applicants for a change of status to return their licence and membership cards prior to the College issuing the licence and card with the new information. This policy is intended to protect against identity theft or the possibility of someone using an old licence to pose as a paramedic.

Consistent with the preferences indicated on the e-surveys regarding EMR subtitles for those who have met the new requirements for EMR training, Council adopted the sub-title "EMR (NOCP

trained)". Although more EMRs preferred just "NOCP", Council accepted the advice of stakeholders who had indicated convincingly that "NOCP Trained" was a clearer indication of meaning.

In response to the request from the Fire Chiefs at the last Council meeting the Audit and Registration Committees had considered prorating of fees. The Committees agreed that monthly prorating was too costly and also likely to be too confusing to applicants. The Registration Committee proposed reducing the fees in each of the last two quarters of the year (the current policy provides for a 40% reduction on October 1<sup>st</sup>; the proposal would add a 20% reduction on July 1<sup>st</sup>). Council referred the proposal to the Legislation and Bylaws Committee to prepare a resolution for the 2011 AGM.

### Committee Appointments

Council considered recommendations from the Nominations Committee to focus on representativeness in filling vacancies on Committees. The Nominations Committee had reviewed all applications and recommended appointments to Council. Council made the following 3 year appointments to committees:

Committee Position	Name	Licence Level	Sector	Location
Education – Fire Rep	Trevor Morrissey	EMT	Fire	Yorkton
Education	Sharon Teske	EMT	Industrial	Yellow Grass
Registration	John Jongeling	EMT	Ambulance	Saskatoon
Discipline – Fire Rep	Wade Sutherland	EMT	Fire	Swift Current

Council considered how to meet our obligation to appoint members from the Education Committee to the new PESPC. The Terms of Reference require one representative from Council and four representatives from the Education Committee with additional positions, if necessary, to ensure representation from the Fire and Industrial sectors. Council made the following appointments:

PESPC Position	Name	Licence Level	Sector	Location
Council Rep & Cochair	Brent Stewart	EMT-P	Education	Saskatoon
Education Ctte	Tim Hillier	EMT-P	Ambulance	Saskatoon
Education Ctte	Donna Dohms	EMT-A	Ambulance	Moosimin
Education Ctte	Sharon Teske	EMT	Industrial	Yellow Grass
Education Ctte	Vacant	EMR		
Fire Rep	Trevor Morrissey	EMT	Fire	Yorkton

Council also considered who should be the SCoP Representative on the Minister's Mobile Health Advisory Council. Derek Dagenais, Vice President, was nominated for this position.

### Terms of Office for SCoP Executive Positions

The Nominations Committee had recommended that the college amend the *Administrative Bylaws* to reduce the length of office of the President and Vice President to two years, non-renewable. This recommendation was in response to concerns that an expectation that a person serve 6 years on

Council (VP for 3 years moving into President's position for another 3 years) was unreasonable. The Committee had explored many options including direct election of the President or the creation of President-elect and Past President positions. The 2 year term of office seemed the most simple solution as it would ensure Council continuity while giving the membership a chance to choose the VP (and incoming President) every two years. Council referred the proposal to the Legislation and Bylaws Committee to prepare a resolution for the 2011 AGM.

### **Registry System**

Council approved recommendations from the Registration and Audit Committees to proceed with replacement of the registry system. The implementation plan will result in online registration and CME reporting by 2012. The system cost is within the three year budget plan approved by Council last spring.