



## **Highlights of the January 27, 2012 Meeting of Council**

The first Council meeting of 2012 was held on January 27, 2012. Brent Stewart, Derek Dagenais, Jon Antal, Lindsay Holm, Karen Bullock and Jamie Struthers attended. The highlights follow.

### **Registration Process**

#### *Registration Renewal Report*

Council was provided with an update on the registration renewal process. The online renewal system experienced a couple of minor system problems, but generally worked well for the College and was mostly supported by our members.

Council was advised that the College experienced some problems with employer paid fees. It was noted that the College does not have the ability to invoice the employers unless it is specifically requested by the employer with a list of names and practicing status. Lack of an invoice caused a couple of services to not submit their payments on time and be subject to late fees. At times, the College also received duplicate payments from both the employer and the member or no payments from the member as they incorrectly assumed their employer was paying. Better communication is required between employer and employee as to who is paying the fees and the College has to remind members that it is their responsibility under the legislation to pay the fee and they should ensure that their employer has paid on their behalf if they understand that to be happening.

Unfortunately, Council was also advised that not all members treated the College staff professionally and with the respect that they deserve. Some phone calls to members to request missing documentation or advise as to problems with their registrations were treated as an inconvenience and/or resulted in the College staff being treated badly. If members opt to treat the staff unprofessionally, the College will have no choice but to report those members to the Professional Conduct Committee for professional misconduct. The Council supported this decision.

It was noted that Constructive feedback from members is always welcome and Council supported the plan to continue to make improvements to the system each year. Members noted that an automatic receipt would be appreciated so it is hoped that the College can add the ability next year to generate an automatic receipt to the member if they pay by credit card online.

#### *Late Fees – Requests and Clarification*

Council supported the waiving of late fees for any member that experienced a system problem. If the reason for submitting late was because of a verified system problem, late fees were automatically waived to ensure that the members were being treated fairly.

Council was also provided with a number of requests to waive late fees that were not system related. They made decisions on each request as to whether it was appropriate to waive late fees based on the information provided and asked that the members be advised of their decision.

Council also made a motion to recommend to the Legislation and Bylaws Committee that they amend the Administrative Bylaws to clarify the bylaws in regards to late fees and make it clear that the application form, the payment and all required documentation has to be into the College by December 1<sup>st</sup>. If anything is not submitted to the College by December 1<sup>st</sup>, late fees will be charged and owing.

### *National Exam*

Council was advised that as of mid-January, a blueprint for the national exam is complete. As such, Council made a motion to approve the National Exam as the licensing exam requirement commencing in June/July of 2012. The last writings of the provincial PCP and ACP exams will be in April of 2012. At this time, the following information is available for sharing in relation to the national exam:

- The national licensing exam will be a computer based multiple choice exam based on the 2001 NOCPs
- The fee to write the national licensing exam will be \$500 and will not be collected by the SCoP
- The first two offerings of the exam are anticipated at the end of June/beginning of July and at the beginning of September with exact dates to follow
- The exam locations will be Regina and Saskatoon
- Eligibility to write the exam will require successful completion of a provincially-approved education program at the relevant level or a provincially-deemed-equivalent and approval of candidacy by the regulator
- The blueprint of the exam will be made public in the near future

Further details will be provided as soon as they become available.

Council was also advised that there is no ability to add Saskatchewan jurisprudence questions to the national exam at this time. It was agreed that work would continue on developing Saskatchewan jurisprudence questions and it was recommended that exploration occur in relation to what formats other jurisdictions use for a jurisprudence exam. Exploration will include online capabilities and open book formats.

### **Scope of Practice and Protocols**

#### *PCP Scope of Practice*

Council was advised that the PESPC committee supported a process of engaging with Stakeholders to explore expanding the PCP scope of practice to align closer to the new NOCP guidelines including symptom relief drugs and IV initiations. It was also agreed that this exploration will need to include discussions regarding opportunities for bridging for those

members at the EMT or EMT/PCP level that would want to become educated and enjoy an increased scope as well as exploring whether anything will become mandatory for our members currently sitting at the EMT or EMT/PCP levels.

#### *Protocol Manual*

Council was advised that both PESPC and the Ministry of Health support their idea to focus on developing better protocols in relation to format and content rather than scope. The aim is for a two step process to occur. The first step would be to create a proposal and examples of what a revamped protocol manual would look like. The second step would be to take the agreed upon format and transfer the current protocol manual into the new format. Work has started on the first step and discussions with the Ministry of Health are occurring in regards to sharing responsibility for the second step.

### **SCoP Council and Committees**

#### *Orientation Process for Council*

A review of Council occurred. Generally, it was agreed that Council was performing well. However, it was noted that there could be improvements to the Council orientation process to ease the transition of new members into Council.

#### *Audit Committee*

Council approved the 2012 budget which will now be communicated in the Annual Report and at the AGM. Work is being done to finalize the projected 2013 and 2014 budget as changes were required with the implementation of the National Exam being imminent.

#### *Public Representation on Committees*

Council supported the recommendation of the Nominations Committee to appoint a member of the public, Gillian Gregoire, to the Education Committee for a three year term. It was noted that Ms. Gregoire has a history in health care and would be a good fit for the College's Education Committee. Council also supported the appointment of Brennan Schmidt to the Nominations Committee. Mr. Schmidt is currently a university student.

### **Stakeholder Meetings**

In November of 2011, the College had the opportunity to meet with the Ministry of Health to provide them with updates on exams, the registry system and fees. The College also began consulting on the revamping of the protocol manual, the scope of practice for paramedic professionals now that the 2011 NOCPs are available and scope of practice ownership.

In January of 2012, the College met with SIAST Regina. It was a good opportunity to share information and discuss areas that could be jointly focused upon in the future.

Also in January of 2012, a meeting of PESPC occurred. As indicated, PESPC supported the approach of Council to revamp the protocol manual and explore an increased PCP scope of practice.

A meeting between SEMSA and representatives of the Council and SCoP is currently scheduled for February 8, 2012 in Saskatoon.