

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

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Statement Regarding the March Clinical Physiotherapy Competence Examination

March 23, 2021

The Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists(NLCP) was notified on Saturday, March 20, 2021, that due to significant technical challenges, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) was forced to cancel the clinical component of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam, scheduled on March 20th and 21st, 2021.

The NLCP acknowledges the burden that the cancellation puts upon candidates who have invested their time, energy, and effort to prepare for this day. We also recognize that examination candidates want answers, and our focus in the coming days will be working towards a solution with CAPR to resolve this issue. We anticipate further communication in the coming days concerning the next steps.

We wish to acknowledge the work that examiners and examination proctors have undertaken to facilitate and support the examination process. We also extend our appreciation for the continuing responsibility that the examination delay places upon physiotherapists who are now supervising Physiotherapist Interns.

CAPR has undertaken significant efforts to develop the virtual examination since January 2020 and to test the systems used to provide the examination. While frustration is understandable, we also acknowledge that CAPR is in uncharted territory. No other organization has offered an examination of this scope and rigor, virtually, to date. Although met with technical failures, the decision to move to an online exam was made to support the current registrants in meeting the registration requirements that assures the public there is an acceptable and uniform standard of physiotherapy practice in Newfoundland and Labrador and across Canada.

Registrants should understand that they have all been licensed under the classification cited in the Regulations(NL). Physiotherapists who apply and complete the qualifying exam PCE(WR) are granted a Conditional Registration. That is why every Physiotherapist still awaiting completion of the PCE(CC) is allowed to practice.

NLCP is engaging in discussions this week to learn more about the current investigation into the failure in administering the examination.

Our purpose is to find answers for Conditional registrants. The NLCP Council met early this week and remain committed to finding a resolution to this ongoing problem that is impacting the examination process and we respectfully thank you for your continued patience.

At this time, the NLCP anticipates those who had their exam cancelled this past weekend will be notified of another date. Individuals who were scheduled to complete the PCE(CC) later June or August should not be affected.

The NLCP will be providing updates as more information becomes available.