



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

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2021 Annual General Meeting

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / REGISTRAR'S REPORT

At the time of writing this report Council has functioned exclusively in a ZOOM based meeting forum. Many of our previously established meeting sites closed their doors to all external groups, which makes perfect sense given the pandemic – yet, it was the start of a complete shift in how we worked and resources we partnered with; personal/face to face connections we had made over the years will have to be re-established. No doubt with significant changes we have yet to appreciate.

Like many working from home, or in an isolated office – this actually meant greater time was needed for Council business as we attempted to deal with developing issues related directly to the COVID Pandemic or fall out from the consequences.

Special thanks go to Council members for their extra time and dedication to carry out the business of the College. The amount of commitment from all members can not be repeated enough. Also playing a major role are all the volunteers who are highlighted in reports detailing work on: Competency, Governance, Legislation and Registration. All College volunteers have been inundated by me with a range of papers and reports ranging from: Labour Mobility, PHIA, Advertising issues, Professionalism, Digital Practice, Jurisprudence just to name a few. And many registrants called and wrote to provide additional thoughts, comments and to ask questions – all of which are valued and acted on as quickly and as thoroughly as possible.

A special thanks to Kerri Smith who in the midst of her own career path - achieving her PhD, served double duty as the Public Representative. This position is appointed by GovNL and there is an extensive selection process that has not yet provided a second Public representative. Kerri made herself available for Council meetings, Registration Committee discussion and the Complaint process.

Council met monthly throughout the year and 8 times for what came to be described as extraordinary meetings. These extra meetings were needed through the heaviest times during the COVID lock down and during difficulties with the National exam.

Pandemic Response The College answered a wide range of concerns over the last year from both the public and registrants. The challenges have been considerable, but it has been clear that Physiotherapists have been vigilant regarding procedures outlined by public health and reinforced/posted by the College. In addition, the COVID restrictions impacted licensing due to the postponement of the written PCE and cancellation of the National practical exams. There was understandable frustration and distress. NL is the only province to require CPA membership, as part of registration; so, it was difficult at times to reconcile with College registrants as to why the College was not advocating more and pushing to cancel the PCE. The answer can appear complex – however, our mandate is to protect the public. Licensing is linked to bylaws, regulations and legislation. Not to mention we are bound by Labour Mobility laws. On behalf of Council I attempted to answer each email individually. One issue that I reinforced is that if you are licensed, you are a registrant and that is a significantly different classification than a member of an association. Conditional registrants are licensed

physiotherapists and not students. The College extended Mentorships to permit Conditional Registrants to apply for positions and practice physiotherapy, under conditions outlined in the Mentorship Program. Recently, Council changed the Conditions of Practice, to provide more flexibility for both the Conditional Registrant and the Mentor. Inquiries and requests were all thoughtfully communicated and Conditional Registrants asked and offered many constructive questions, critiques and suggestions. Mentors have demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment going beyond the usual time required for the Mentorship Programme. Thank you to all involved through very challenging and unprecedented time.

There are three vacant Council positions this year. Several individuals' terms are being completed this year and I would like to recognize the following individuals:

Rachelle Ryan – Rachelle has contributed significantly over the last 6 years; including the Vice Chairperson and CAC Chair. Rachelle has been a steady resource for all on Council, a special thanks goes out to her for her dedication and interest in the work of the Council.

Emma House – In addition to being on Council, Emma took on the role of Treasurer for the last two years and has been tirelessly working on the accounts as well as providing advice. This time of year is especially busy since she has to work with the accountants to confirm our finances. Thank you Emma for all your work.

Cassie Chisolm – In addition to regular Council duties, Cassie has worked with Oversight Committee on Support Personnel. Thank you Cassie for your work and commitment to the College.

We are missing again an opportunity for face to face recognition but I will make sure a special certificate of recognition is mailed or delivered on behalf of the College.

I have continued to represent the College at both Provincial and National levels through:

NL Health Professions Regulatory Network:

The NLHPRN is comprised of 16 regulated health professions in Newfoundland and Labrador which meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and share topics of mutual interest. Through June to February the HRN met monthly via ZOOM and occasionally met for extra COVID discussions, especially when there was information pending from GovNL.

The annual education session scheduled for May 11th was well attended virtually and the GOVERNANCE topic was very timely and relevant.

Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators:

There were no face to face meetings but monthly ZOOM meetings, interspaced with biweekly meetings for 2-3 month block.

Topics discussed:

- Cross border Physiotherapy
- Emerging digital practice
- Follow-up from the Cayton Report
- Jurisprudence
- Pandemic issues
- PCE WR exam restructuring
- Closing of exam sites across the country due to pandemic
- PCE CR examination cancellation, issues and jurisdictional challenges

Office Management:

I would like to acknowledge the work done by our office support specialist Lorne Warren and Jonathan Miller our IT expert. They have been on call throughout the year and especially during the registration time period. There were no issues with Pay Pal this year and by all accounts the process was efficient and straight forward. We did have 1 complaint from a registrant who was late.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

A considerable part of the dual position is taken up by Registrar responsibilities.

Registration:

Registrants to Dec.31st, 2021:

• Total	325
• Active	286
• Inactive	25
• Conditional	14
Late registrations:	30

This year there were no technical problems with PayPal. Unfortunately, in the interest of fairness for all we were compelled to issue late fees if registrants missed the deadline.

There was one written concern, and this initiated a review of our system. It was found there could be substantial cost if we purchased a new registration system; and a new system would not help registrants who are remiss in signing their form, not submitting a form at all or providing incorrect information. Refusing to pay your fee is not a strategy to facilitate resolution of any concerns, since fee payment and completion of a new form are both required to complete registration.

Conditional Registrants

- Fourteen registrants remain Conditional Registration (P.C.E. Candidates) during 2021
- Five of the fourteen were initially unsuccessful in the CC portion of PCE.

Physiotherapy Clinics

- 35 clinics registered in 2021

Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI): The College continues to collaborate with CIHI and provides the data collection on NL registrants' demographics in order that CIHI can develop a report on Physiotherapy across the country.

Our 2020 submission was submitted, and errors corrected. Thank you to Jonathan Miller, for his assistance in uploading data.

Discipline:

One complaint is in the process for review by the CAC.

Overall accomplishments:

1. Governance Manual – partly completed
2. Bylaws ready for Council approval and they will then be posted
3. Review in place for Digital Practice national agreement
4. Ethics document on the website
5. 2021 fillable CCC Portfolio on website
6. Registration Committee in place
8. Pandemic response – Tele-rehabilitation Guidelines and posted these on the website.
9. Submission to EngageNL re: Diagnostics and Treatment Protocols
10. Labour Mobility discussion
11. Continued Competency Portfolio submission

A major goal for me has been to respond to all communications personally and within a reasonable timeframe. I would encourage members to reach out by email or call the office for information and to seek clarification on any matter of concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kay

Michael Kay
Executive Director/Registrar