

2021 Annual General Meeting NLCPT Chairperson's Report

I am privileged to provide the Chairperson's Report for the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists'. In stating the obvious, this has not been a normal year. It has been highlighted by the ongoing challenges for all therapists presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The cancellation of the practical component of the national exam has been very stressful and demanding for the therapists practicing under conditional licenses and their mentors.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to commend all physiotherapists in the province for their work during the pandemic. Physiotherapists have risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic and continued to provide the general public with safe and effective care. We have implemented the evolving practice guidelines and public health orders without question. It has shown our collective commitment to the well-being of our colleagues and patients, as well as ourselves, and without doubt, strengthened the public's trust in our profession.

Despite much of the Council and committee time being focused on the issues brought about by Covid-19, the regular work of the College has continued. Council has continued to meet monthly through the entire year with several extra meetings to deal with various issues. The future months look to be just as busy. The practical exam will be a topic that dominates the summer and early fall as we wait for the exam to be up and running and if not, deal with the challenge of a possible by-law change to provide licenses to the conditional registrants that have been impacted by the exam cancellation.

The Registration committee members have been busy meeting to deal with issues around registration, the mentorship program, and the Conditions of Practice form. The Governance committee has been steadily working on the completion of the governance manual – a monumental task that will be of tremendous benefit to the College and our profession. The Legislative committee is busy with by-law work. The Complaints Authorization Committee have had meetings and interviews to deal with complaints to the College. The Continuing Competency committee have conducted evaluations of the Continued Competency portfolios. Kelli O'Brien has been busy keeping track of the national issues as the Alliance representative. Emma House has spent hours on the finances. Our public member, Kerri Smith has gone above and beyond the call of duty, as a member of Council and other committees. The College is very fortunate to have such a qualified and dedicated public member contribution. The Executive Director and Registrar, Mike Kay, has continued to show tremendous devotion to his position and passion for the profession. His coordination of Council activities along with the various committees that he serves on makes his contribution to the College invaluable.

I hope I have not unintentionally omitted the contributions of anyone. I do draw attention to the work of Mike and the many volunteers who serve the College in some capacity. It is this work that makes it possible for our profession to have self-governance with the confidence of the government and the public. Self-governance is a privilege, and it is hard work. We should not take it for granted. In these evolving times in our province's health care system, we should all take interest in the issues that arise to challenge our profession and be well informed College members. I encourage every therapist to take the time to review the reports from the various committees, so you have a better understanding of the work being done on your behalf.

We are all hopeful that better, more new normal days are close at hand. However, the profession will continue to be challenged by the requirements of practicing with Covid-19, but as we emerge from the pandemic, there are new challenges ahead for our profession and the College. There is the registration of our conditional registrants and the national exam, the evolving role of support personnel, and specialization and restricted practice to name a few.

I would like to thank all the members of the Council, Mike Kay, and the many other committee volunteers for their contributions. I wish every member of the College a healthy summer and I look forward to serving the College in my role as chairperson in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Maher
Chair – Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists'