

2023 Annual General Meeting NLCPT
Chairperson's Report

I am again privileged to provide the Chairperson's Report for the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists'. My three years as chairperson have been dominated by Covid-19 and the changes it forced upon our personal and professional lives. As I write this report, thankfully there are signs of a return to the ways of our pre-pandemic living.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to commend all physiotherapists in the province for their continued work during the Covid -19 pandemic. Physiotherapists rose to the challenges and demonstrated to the public and other healthcare colleagues that we are a responsible and trusted healthcare profession.

As you may or may not be aware, the College is made of Council and many committees who all function with volunteer members from the profession. These volunteer efforts make it possible for the College to function. It is this work that allows our profession to have self-governance. 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.

As the reports by all the committee chairs at today's AGM will demonstrate, it has been another busy year for the College and all its volunteers. The work of the previous year leads us to new challenges on the horizon for our profession. Expanding roles for physiotherapists are a real possibility as our public health system evolves to expand access by maximizing every professions' scope of practice. As a College we are already preparing for this possibility. There is a committee working over the previous year to examine and prepare a statement on controlled acts and restricted activities. Another committee has been working on future changes for the role of support personnel. Social media and advertising activities have changed. A social media policy has been developed. Therapists are reminded to review this document and realize their professional responsibilities in this emerging world. This is just to name a few items that will be on the agenda in the coming months as we emerge from under the cloud of the pandemic and rise to the challenges of the new normal.

Finally, I would like to thank our public members, Kerri Smith and Alex McGruer. We are so fortunate to have such a qualified and interested public members willing to give their personal time to serve the College. And to Mike Kay, our executive director, who continues to be invaluable to the workings of the College on all levels.

I hope everyone has a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Maher
Chair – Newfoundland and Labrador College of Physiotherapists'