



# COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## PHYSICIANS RELATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Fall 2009

### 1. Board Update

The Board has been overseeing the process of meeting the requirements of the Health Professions Act, the Naturopathic Physicians Regulation and the Bylaws of the College as a result of the changes to each of these that occurred following the Speech from the Throne in the spring.

The Prescribing and Diagnostics Committee has nearly completed the Standards, Limits and Conditions paper which is required before proceeding with prescriptive authority. Shortly this document will be sent to the Board for further review and approval. This document will outline which scheduled drugs are excluded from use and provide certain standards, limits and conditions regarding prescribing, dispensing and compounding. This is a key document in the ability of registrants to prescribe scheduled items.

The development of the course and examination required for the new certification required by the Regulation and bylaws is underway and the College has arranged with the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine for them to finalize the course and examination with the College's approval. The course structure and course dates will be announced shortly.

The College has continued to work with the Ministry of Health and has established dialogues with other Colleges as required in order to implement prescriptive authority and access to laboratory and other diagnostic testing. While there are still some barriers to be overcome with regard to laboratory testing, the College has been doing everything in its power to encourage resolution of barriers on a collaborative basis.

This has been an exciting and challenging period for the College. We have been fortunate in developing a cohesive working environment between the Board, the Registrar, and the College staff that enabled us to managing numerous challenges simultaneously. To ensure we continue to meet our mandate at a high level during this period of fascinating growth we are in the process of hiring one staff position and looking for a larger space to accommodate the required operations.

Our Inquiry Committee Chair, Richard Meyer attended a legal seminar on Inquiry Committee functions and we are developing a specialized training course for inspectors to be held January 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in becoming an inspector, please let Howard Greenstein or Dr. Tawnya Ward, our Chief Inspector, know of your interest as soon as possible. There are also changes to the Health Professions Act that will necessitate changes to our Inquiry procedures and we have been working on that and will continue this through 2010.

We have reviewed and revised the CE policy going into the next CE period beginning February 1, 2010 and we have incorporated certain changes, which considered input from registrants. Please familiarize yourself with the changes in this new policy. As well, the new Standards, Limits and Conditions for Allergy scratch testing have been finalized and approved by the board and will be distributed shortly.

The Quality Assurance Committee Chair, Dr. Stefan Kuprowsky and his Committee have been developing the quality assurance area, to meet government expectations that the College would seek to have state-of-the-art QA procedures around prescribing authority.

The Finance Chair, Dr. Chris Spooner, has been working closely with our Registrar and Board to develop the budget, plans for new space and staffing. We are please to inform you that even though College operations and responsibilities continue to increase that there will not be any dues increase for this coming year.

We have thanked Janet McGregor and Ken Wiesner for their excellent service to the Board as public members and we welcomed new members Mary Manning and Wesley Barnaby.

This is an exciting time for the College and profession at large. We certainly appreciate the support and patience that you the registrants have shown. As a College, we want to ensure that the integration of our revised regulation into your general practice is successful and promises to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public.

## **2. Examination Committee Update**

The Examining committee successfully examined 35 candidates this past August. A welcome reception was held at the SFU Harbour Centre Business School after the oral examinations. It was a huge success and appreciated by all of the new graduates. The reception was organized by Debbie Ferreira and hosted by Howard Greenstein and Dr. David Bayley.

The examining committee met in October and assigned tasks for updating and reviewing all areas of the Oral/Practical exams to ensure they stay relevant and meet the needs of the College to screen candidates for competency and public safety.

## **3. Inquiry Committee Update**

The Inquiry Committee is in need of inspectors. There will be a training session in the New Year for anyone who would like to assist the profession by taking on this role. If you are interested, I would encourage you to contact the office for further information. The committee continues to meet regularly to consider the complaints that are referred by the Registrar. The committee continues the process of reviewing and improving procedures to ensure the College is in compliance with the governing legislation to ensure the protection of the Public.

## **4. Patient Relations Committee Update**

The Patient Relations Committee has been moving forward with the recently completed Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics. The committee is evaluating the best way to relay this information to new grads and current practitioners. The revised material will be presented on December 9<sup>th</sup> to students at BINM. Material presented will include information from the recent workshop held at St.Paul's hospital on Sexual Misconduct and Professional Vulnerability. Fourteen professions under the health professions act were in attendance in the hopes of improving communication between professions. Basic ideas were presented regarding appropriate behaviour in a clinic setting (appearance, gifts, language, etc) with the second half of the morning covering professional vulnerability. It was suggested that when practitioners experience "burnout" they are more likely to cross professional boundaries. The committee is discussing future ways to incorporate this into CE programs.

## **5. Quality Assurance Committee Update**

The Quality Assurance Committee has recently revised the current Continuing Education Policy, which has now been board approved. The new policy will be effective for the period commencing February 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011. The policy and rationale will be distributed shortly and will be posted in the 'CNPBC Policies and Procedures' section of the CNPBC website.

The Quality Assurance Committee continues to seek members to join its advisory group. Please contact Debbie at the CNPBC office if you are interested.

*Enjoy a Healthy Fall and Winter Season!*

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