



# COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## PHYSICIANS RELATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Spring 2008

### 1. Board Update

It was a busy fall and winter for the College board as it continues working with the Ministry of Health with the next steps toward obtaining prescriptive authority. Education and testing requirements as well as Quality Assurance mechanisms are in the development stages as the board moves forward while it maintains communication with Ministry of Health staff in order to continue to move in the right direction.

The College also continues its focus on regulatory reform with the Ministry of Health and remains determined to get the necessary regulation and bylaws reforms that align our training and education with these regulatory laws concerning naturopathic practice in BC.

The board held its annual Planning Session in Vancouver on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> where it planned for the upcoming year and discussed goals that need to be achieved with current projects already in progress as well as new initiatives to be moved forward.

### 2. President's Address

I would like to thank all registrant's that attended the AGM this past April. The AGM remains a great forum in which the College can interact with you the registrants, share information and answer your questions. Please continue to engage yourselves in College functions; we are here to support your success and to guide you to ensure best practices. Please refer to the President's Report in the Annual Report if you were unable to attend the AGM.

The College has been working with BCNA, CNCC and CAND to address registrant concerns regarding federal Bill C-51. CAND has distributed sample letters for patients and naturopathic physicians to express their concerns regarding possible restrictions on access to natural health products. As a College, we are concerned regarding the possible federal intrusion into an area of provincial responsibility and how that might impact the regulation of the profession with regard to lawful access to substances that would be defined as "prescription therapeutic products. Please note the issues as I have outlined them in this recent article on the subject. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/weekly-checkup/>

As for ND prescription rights access here in BC, everything is moving forward on track. At the end of May, British Columbia's Health Professions Act was revised with the passing of Bill 25. The CNPBC significantly contributed to certain important amendments that in the end were accepted by the Ministry of Health. Kudos goes out to the Board and Howard for their efforts on this issue. The language in this act creates mechanisms to which ND issues may be addressed in the future. We will keep you posted on developments as necessary.

### 3. Registrar's Address

The AGM marked the end of my first year at CNPBC and it has been an exciting, interesting and rewarding one. Please refer to my report in the Annual Report if you were unable to attend the AGM. The College has made substantial progress in upgrading its financial and administrative systems and we are continuing to work on improved systems that support effective regulation of the profession.

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We have welcomed new members into the profession and have continued to develop our registration practices both to ensure protection of the public and to recognize qualified applicants. We have worked with other provinces to develop a renewed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) that will facilitate the mobility of qualified naturopathic physicians across Canada. Since the AGM, the government introduced Bill 25, involving amendments to the Health Professions Act and creating the Health Professions Review Board. The amendments are far-reaching and will involve changes to the ways in which all health Colleges regulate. The CNPBC, as well as many other health Colleges within the Health Regulatory Organization (HRO) made a number of suggestions for amendments to the legislation and virtually all of the recommendations were incorporated as amendments. Bill 25 has now passed and we are awaiting further details regarding the impact of the changes. I anticipate that the College will provide registrants with further information once the details are clarified. We continue to work with Ministry of Health officials on the regulatory requirements to implement the announcements in the Speech from the Throne.

#### **4. 2008 Annual General Meeting**

The 2008 Annual General Meeting was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the board would like to thank all that were in attendance. The 2007 Annual Report was distributed to all Registrants via email prior to the meeting and hard copy versions were distributed to attendees. If you would like a copy of the material covered at the AGM, please contact the CNPBC office.

Elections were held to fill 2 positions on the board. The College welcomes Dr. Chris Spooner as a newly elected board member and Dr. Lorne Swetlikoff as a re-elected board member.

The College regrets to inform you that public board member Janet McGregor will be resigning from her position in the fall. Janet has been a tremendous asset to the College board, always showing great support in board and committee initiatives and committing a great deal of her time and energy into helping the board meet its goals and seeing its vision through to completion.

Janet, the College Board and staff thank you for your many years of valuable service to this profession. Dr. Sanjay Mohan Ram decided not to run for re-election to the Board. The Board wishes to thank Dr. Mohan Ram for his service on the Board. Dr. Mohan Ram has been re-appointed as a member of the Registration Committee for the 2008 year.

#### **5. Patterns of Practice Committee Update**

The Patterns of Practice Committee would like to notify Registrants that Dr. Stefan Kuprowsky's IV Therapies Course has been accepted by the board as an approved course toward certification in various specialty therapies. There are now a total of five approved IV Therapies courses which include IV Therapies Courses from Dr. Garrett Swetlikoff, Dr. Paul Saunders, Dr. Virginia Osborne, Marcella Percy and Dr. Stefan Kuprowsky.

The ISCT Chelation workshop is no longer an approved course for Chelation certification and at the moment, the only approved course is that of the American College of Advancement in Medicine (ACAM). Please refer to ACAM's website at [www.acam.org](http://www.acam.org) for information on chelation workshop dates and locations. The board has also approved the removal of part 3 of the certification process, making it a 2 part certification process with part 1 being the completion of an approved IV therapies course and part 2 being the completion of the ACAM chelation workshop.

The board also recently approved the addition of the Naturopathic Academy of Therapeutic Injection (NATI) course for certification in prolotherapy. The prolotherapy certification process also involves 2 parts, which include the completion of an approved IV therapies course as well as the completion of an approved prolotherapy course. Other approved prolotherapy courses include those of the The Hackett Hemwall Foundation, the International Academy of Musculoskeletal Medicine and the American Academy of Orthopedic Medicine.

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For more information pertaining to certifiable therapies, please contact the College office.

#### **6. Quality Assurance Committee Update**

The Quality Assurance Committee is looking for advisors to help with the workload involved with developing Quality Assurance mechanisms that will be implemented once prescriptive authority is granted to ND's in BC. There is a great deal of work to be done to ensure that thorough and effective protocols are in place.

Please contact the CNPBC office if you are interested in volunteering your time for the advancement of your profession.

#### **7. Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance – Acupuncture/Naturopathic Visits**

The Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA) has announced a policy change in regards to acupuncture and naturopathic visits effective April 22, 2008. MEIA will partially fund acupuncture and naturopathic treatments at a rate of \$23 per visit to a maximum of 10 visits.

*Enjoy a Healthy Spring and Summer  
Season*

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