



COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PHYSICIANS RELATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Spring/Summer 2010

1. Board Update

The Annual General Meeting of the CNPBC was held on April 17th with the majority of full-practicing registrants in attendance again this year. Dr. Cameron McIntyre was welcomed to the board at the AGM and the CNPBC board and staff very much look forward to working with Dr. McIntyre.

The CNPBC board and staff would like to thank Dr. Chris Spooner for his time served on the board. Dr. Spooner will continue to serve as Chair of the Finance Committee. We would also like to extend our thanks to public board member, Mr. Gregg Turner whose board term expired on December 31, 2009. Gregg served for a total of 6 years on the board as well as serving as a member of the Quality Assurance Committee and as an Inspector for the Inquiry Committee.

This past March the CNPBC welcomed a new professional staff member, Lindsay Lee. Lindsay is a graduate of UBC law school and her responsibilities are to assist the College in fulfilling its mandate. Her skill will greatly assist Howard and Debbie in dealing with the many changes in the HPA that require that CNPBC procedures be implemented with the greatest accuracy.

After several years of planning, this past January the CNPBC moved its offices to a new space that gives it the capacity to meet its current needs and expected growth. The new office gives the staff the ability to have private offices, conduct board meetings, conduct examinations, and enables committees to meet freely. The new office space is very professional and well suited to meet the needs of the College into the future.

Many registrants have completed the pharmacy certification course and exams. The board would like to thank Dave Scotten, ND at the BINM for his efforts in helping to develop this course on behalf of the College along with the subcommittee of NDs that has helped to provide guidance to this process. The College has received four e-mails, out of 203 exam candidates, with suggestions for improving the course and examinations and the Chair of the College Examinations Committee, Dr. David Bayley, ND, has been appointed to consolidate the input and to review it with BINM and UBC faculty for inclusion into the development process for the future.

The Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Dispensing and Compounding Drugs document has now been approved by the board, as recommended by the Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostic Referral ("PDR") Committee. The board is pleased with the outcome of the SLC document, which will provide you with a firm foundation to safely practice. This document is available in the 'CNPBC Policies and Procedures' section of the CNPBC website. The board wishes to acknowledge the major contributions by the members of the PDR Committee, both registrants and other appointed members, in developing the standards, limits and conditions and for their input into the course and exam framework.

The Registrar has been working with the Ministry of Health to put all required systems into place to implement prescribing authority, including agreements with the Ministry of Health and the issuance of prescribing numbers. Information will be provided to registrants once it is made available. The CNPBC office has been busy finalizing all certifications for prescribing authority and that process is now complete. A notice will be issued shortly regarding the exact date prescribing commences.

2. Examination Committee Update

The last administration of the BC Board Examinations was held in August followed by a welcome reception hosted by the CNPBC and the Examination Committee for new graduates. This was a huge success again this year and appreciated by all of the new grads.

The complete information and application procedure is available on the CNPBC website.

3. Inquiry Committee Update

The Inquiry Committee's call for inspectors last year was very successful. It currently has 10 inspectors located in various parts of the province. All of the inspectors have taken part in a specialized inspectors' workshop held in January at BCIT in collaboration with the Psychiatric Nurses College, which was formulated specifically for the role of the Inquiry Committee Inspectors of the Colleges.

Revisions to the Health Professions Act have necessitated ongoing review of Inquiry Committee procedures and will challenge the College in terms of meeting all of the demands within existing resources. The creation of the Health Professions Review Board has resulted in a new review process with regard to registration and inquiry decisions of health colleges. The CNPBC procedures where inquiries and investigations are concerned must be carried out thoroughly therefore proper training of the Inquiry Committee's inspectors is extremely important.

4. Quality Assurance Committee Update

As part of the CNPBC's requirement to expand its quality assurance programs, the Quality Assurance Committee rolled out its self, peer and practice assessment review program prior to this year's Annual General Meeting. All three parts of the assessment are to be completed by December 31, 2010. Please visit the CNPBC website to obtain copies of these documents.

The board, at its last meeting approved a restricted certification for the use of oral chelation. Those registrants practicing oral chelation must complete an approved chelation course and are restricted from administering all IV therapies.

Registrants who are practicing ozone therapy are reminded that direct ozone gas injection is illegal in BC and must never be used under any circumstances. Only autohemotherapy is allowed to be practiced in BC.