



COLLEGE OF
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

RENEWING THE FOUNDATION

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
May 4, 2019

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Mission | 6 | Inquiry Committee |
| 1 | Our Mandate | 8 | Registration Committee |
| 2 | Governance | 10 | Examinations Committee |
| 2 | 2018 Board of Directors | 11 | Discipline Committee |
| 3 | Message from the Chair
and Registrar | 12 | Quality Assurance Committee |
| | | 13 | Finance Committee |



VISION

REGULATING NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

OUR MANDATE

The College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia regulates the practice of naturopathic medicine under the *Health Professions Act*. A person must hold a full (practising) registration with the College in order to practise naturopathic medicine in British Columbia.

The College protects the public by ensuring that naturopathic doctors deliver care safely, ethically, and competently. It licenses only those individuals who demonstrate that they

are qualified, competent, and fit to practise naturopathic medicine. It establishes and maintains standards of practice and quality assurance programs to ensure that naturopathic doctors continue to practice safely, ethically, and competently throughout their careers. Finally, it investigates complaints from the public against naturopathic doctors and, when necessary, takes action to ensure that the public is safe.



GOVERNANCE

The College is created and governed by rules set out under the *Health Professions Act, Naturopathic Physicians Regulation, and Bylaws*. The College's board comprises four naturopathic physicians elected by their peers and three public members appointed by the Minister of Health. The College's daily operations are carried out by the Registrar and other professional staff.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Pitfield, ND
CHAIR

Cathy Carlson-Rink, ND

Walter Lemmo, ND

Chris Spooner, ND

Kaajal L. Hayer, LL.B.
PUBLIC MEMBER

Barry Long, LL.B.
PUBLIC MEMBER

Jocelyn Stanton
PUBLIC MEMBER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND REGISTRAR

2018 was a year of many challenges for the College.

It was necessary to direct significant resources toward resolution of breaches of College advertising rules by a number of naturopathic doctors, and to address negative attention from newsmedia, government, and the public regarding those breaches and a high-profile investigation of a now-former registrant. Despite this unexpected drain on resources, the College was nevertheless able to make progress in executing parts of the strategic plan presented at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Successful responses to most challenges

The College's two significant challenges in 2018 were:

- breaches of rules regarding advertising by many naturopathic doctors, ranging from minor to more serious concerns such as false claims

regarding treatments and causes of disease, which were subject to a high level of scrutiny by the public and government alike; and

- unprecedented newsmedia coverage of the advertising and resulting investigation of one now-former registrant.

The College acted decisively to resolve both issues. It commenced a review of all registrants' online advertising, and over the course of 2018 sent no fewer than six communications to the profession on its activities in this regard, noting and explaining frequently observed issues, and providing status updates on its progress. Staff participated in regular meetings with Mark McKinnon, Director of Professional Regulation and Oversight with the Ministry of Health, and other Ministry colleagues in regard to advertising

concerns, and provided regular updates to Ministry on its enforcement efforts. Finally, both Board and staff recognized the importance of closer communication and open dialogue with Ministry, providing key messaging and ensuring availability during moments of intense media scrutiny.

The Inquiry Committee initiated its highest-profile investigation of 2018 on the basis of the contents of the registrant's website and a complaint received from a UK health professional. The Committee maintained the integrity and confidentiality of its investigative process despite intense pressure from the international news media and from close to home in order to achieve a just result that protects the public.

The investigation culminated in the cancellation of the registrant's registration and an agreement that

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND REGISTRAR

the registrant cannot reapply for registration for a period of five years. In the professional regulatory context, loss of registration without the ability to reapply for a period of years (whether consented to or imposed by a discipline committee) is the harshest sanction that a professional can face.

Recognizing the benefits that additional communications expertise could bring to its efforts to communicate with the press, the public, government, and the profession about its regulatory activities, the College retained a communications firm to assist in the development of key messaging in regard to the challenges identified above, as well as a longer-term communications plan.

Renewing the foundation

Despite the resource-intensive challenges that it faced in 2018, the College was nevertheless able to advance aspects of its strategic plan around the theme of “Strengthening the Foundation” to enable a future of robustly regulated naturopathic medicine in BC. The tripartite plan, presented at the 2018 AGM, comprised the following objectives:

- clarify scope and standards of practice;
- enhance quality assurance; and
- foster interagency collaboration.

In 2018, the Board and Standards of Practice Sub-committee of the Quality Assurance Committee reviewed, amended, and/or created a number of standards and guidelines, including standards and guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control, Antimicrobial Stewardship and Prescribing Practices, Advertising, Improper Inducements to Treatment, Immunization, Informed Consent, the Therapeutic Order, and Basic and Advanced Injection Therapies, among others. Many of these will be posted on the College’s website soon, pending the Board’s final review.

The Quality Assurance Committee conducted 18 practice audits for the 2018 year, and reviewed over two dozen applications by CE, certification, and qualification course providers for College approval – as well as multiple applications from individual registrants for consideration of new CE courses and training in specified aspects of practice.

The Board struck a Cannabis Working Group and sought its recommendation regarding the impact of the Cannabis Regulations, if any, upon the practice of naturopathic medicine in BC. Having determined that the law regarding access to cannabis for medical purposes did not substantially change under Part 14 of the Cannabis Regulations, the Board clarified the state of the law as it concerns naturopathic doctors in BC.

It determined that naturopathic doctors may counsel patients regarding recreational marijuana only with reference to abuse, addiction, and safety; as was previously the case, naturopathic doctors may not prescribe, recommend, or facilitate patients’ access to cannabis. For discussion of the therapeutic use of cannabis, a naturopathic doctor must refer his or her patient to a medical doctor or nurse practitioner, who are authorized under the regulations.

2018 presented challenges and opportunities in the area of interagency relations. The Registrar and Chair met regularly with Mark McKinnon and other Ministry staff in order to work together on enforcement and communications issues.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND REGISTRAR

There were several positive outcomes from the College's perspective:

- a confirmed commitment to proactive regulation and to maintaining an open dialogue with Ministry;
- regular reporting on advertising enforcement activities, including plans for proactive regulation, collaboration with other Colleges on advertising issues, and the use of technology to target certain issues; and
- discussions regarding the possibility of a dialogue on evidence, and an exchange of perspectives regarding "evidence-based" and "evidence-informed" healthcare.

The Registrar and Chair attended meetings of the Canadian Alliance of Naturopathic Regulatory Authorities to discuss topics of national significance, including interjurisdictional practice, entry to practice examinations, scope of practice, and issues around cannabis. The Registrar also participated in meetings of the BC Health Regulators, the organization of Registrars of BC Health Profession Colleges, contributing to that group's submissions to the

Ministry of Health on the future of healthcare regulation in our province. The College has also been represented at meetings of the Canadian Naturopathic Coordinating Council, where it has provided helpful information from a regulatory perspective. Conversations with representatives of the BC Centre for Disease Control in regard to antimicrobial stewardship had a positive impact on the College's approach to protecting the public.

The Board will be examining the impacts of the Cayton Report upon its strategic plan at its strategic planning meeting this summer, and will communicate to the profession in due course about how that plan will evolve in order to "Renew the Foundation."

It has been a challenging year with progress made on many fronts. This would not have been possible without the hard work and expertise of the College's Board and Committee members, our dedicated and diligent former Registrar and CEO, Howard Greenstein, and our staff, for which we are very grateful.



Rebecca Pitfield, ND
CHAIR



Phillipa Stanaway
REGISTRAR AND CEO

INQUIRY COMMITTEE

The role of the Inquiry Committee is to investigate and resolve or otherwise dispose of complaints in order to protect the public.

The Inquiry Committee investigates complaints from the public, and may also initiate an investigation on its own motion. Under the *Health Professions Act* (the “Act”), the Committee may dispose of the file by:

- taking no further action;
- issuing a warning or letter of advice;
- resolving the matter by consent order with the naturopathic doctor; or
- directing the registrar to issue a citation for a discipline hearing.

Meetings

In 2018 the Inquiry Committee held nine in person meetings and five teleconferences.

Matters investigated and resolved

The Inquiry Committee opened 57 new investigations and closed 21 investigations.

A total of 57 new investigation files were opened. Of those 57:

- 24 were received from a member of the public
- 33 were initiated on the Inquiry Committee’s own motion pursuant to s. 33(4) of the Act.

A total of 21 investigation files were closed in 2018. Of those 20:

- three were closed with no further action
- 17 were resolved by reprimand or remedial action by consent pursuant to s. 36(1) of the HPA.

INVESTIGATIONS IN 2018



24
Complaints from public

33
Inquiry Committee initiated



3
No further action

17
Reprimand or remedial
action by consent

1
Dismissed by Registrar

INQUIRY COMMITTEE

Of the 17 files were that were resolved by reprimand or remedial action by consent:

- four were resolved by consent orders
- ten files involved one registrant and were resolved by a single consent order to address all ten files
- five files involved one registrant and were resolved with a single consent order to address all five files
- two of the consent orders involved serious matters and required public notification pursuant to s. 39.3 of the Act.

One file was dismissed by the Registrar pursuant to s. 32(3) of the Act.

Citations Directed

One file resulted in the Inquiry Committee directing the Registrar to issue a citation for a discipline hearing. The matter was resolved by consent order prior to the hearing.

Words from the Chair

The Chair wishes to thank the Committee, its inspectors, and staff for their dedication and hard work in service of the Committee's public safety mandate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Meyer, JD
CHAIR

David Bayley, ND

Penny Seth-Smith, ND

Barry Long, LL.B.
PUBLIC MEMBER

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Registration Committee works with the Registrar to make decisions concerning registration (including reinstatement of registration) matters, and to recommend required policy changes to the Board – for example, education programs.

As provided under the *Health Professions Act*, the Committee has formally delegated routine registration matters to the Registrar (including College certification applications).

Non-routine matters – for example, questions of good character, or involving limits and conditions on registration – are brought to the Committee.

In 2018, a total of 54 new licenses (certificates of registration) were granted in the calendar/fiscal year. By the end of 2018, the total number of registrants increased to 705, comprising 597 Full (practising) Registrants, 107 Non-Practising Registrants, and one Temporary Registrant.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

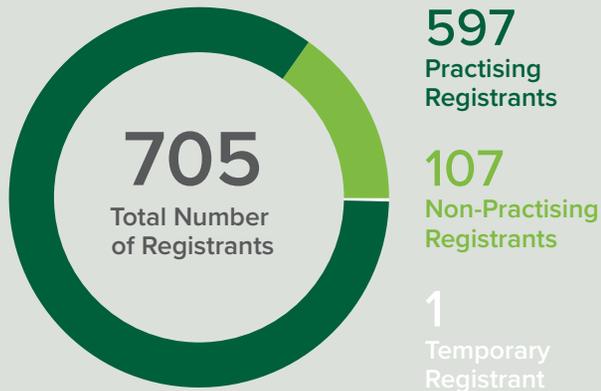
Walter Lemmo, ND
CHAIR

Karen McGee, ND

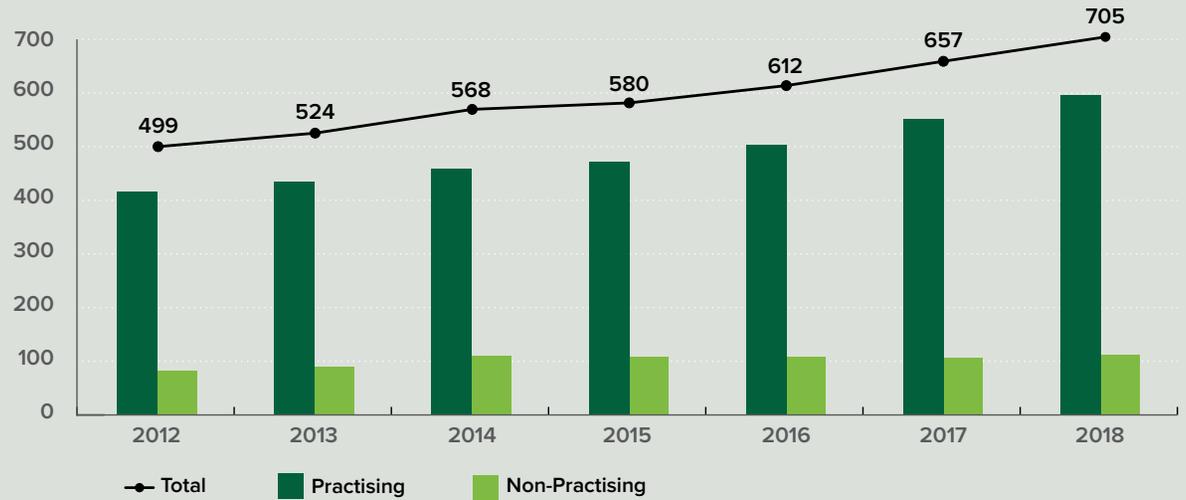
Jocelyn Stanton
PUBLIC MEMBER

THE PROFESSION IN 2018

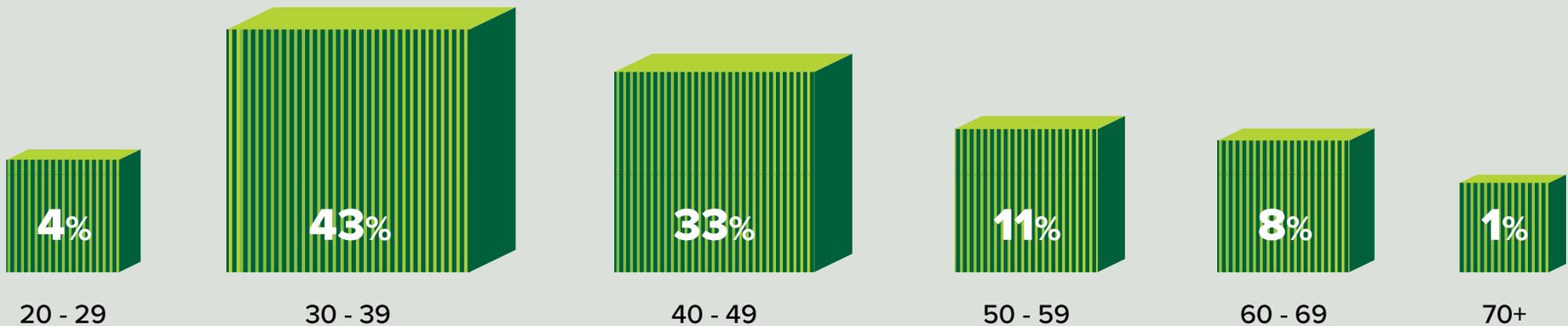
2018 Registrants



Number of Registrants per Year



Age of Registrants



EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

The Examination Committee advises the Board and Registrar concerning the testing of applicants for registration, and administers examinations with the assistance of multiple examiners who are registrants of the College.

On an ongoing basis, the Committee is involved in quality improvement upgrades and modifications to examinations to reflect regulatory changes and developments in practice.

In February and August of 2018, the Committee and its examiners

invigilated the two general sittings of the College's Jurisprudence and Oral and Practical examinations.

The Committee administered College examinations to 74 candidates in 2018.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sanjay Mohan Ram, ND
CHAIR

Jonathon Berghamer, ND

Kelly Fujibayashi, ND

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

The Discipline Committee hears and determines Citations.

A Citation is a charging document that alleges that a registrant of the College (i) has not complied with governing legislation; (ii) has committed professional misconduct, unprofessional conduct or incompetently practised naturopathic medicine; or (iii) suffers from a physical or mental ailment, including addiction to alcohol or drugs, that impairs their ability to practice naturopathic medicine.

A Citation is issued by the Registrar of the College on direction from the Inquiry Committee. The Discipline Committee then strikes a panel of three or more persons to hear and determine the matter. After hearing the case, the Discipline Committee may dismiss the matter or find that the Citation has been proved. Upon a finding that the Citation has been proved, the Discipline Committee

may impose a penalty that may consist of any of the following: a reprimand; limits or conditions on the registrant's practice; and the suspension or cancellation of the registrant's licence to practice naturopathic medicine.

Key Activities

The Discipline Committee received one Citation for a discipline hearing in 2018. The hearing was set for early 2019, but cancelled in early 2019 after the Inquiry Committee accepted the Registrant's proposal for a consent order under s. 37.1(1) of the *Health Professions Act*.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kaajal L. Hayer, LL.B.

Stefan Kuprowsky, ND

Tawnya Ward, ND

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Quality Assurance Committee plays a crucial role in upholding the College’s mandate to protect the public by ensuring that registrants practice safely, ethically, and competently.

Under the College’s Bylaws, the Quality Assurance Committee is responsible for the following:

- Establishing and maintaining a quality assurance program to promote high standards of practice among registrants;
- Recommending continuing education courses to the board for approval; and
- Articulating specific programs to identify outcome measurements and evaluation methods, and recommending a timetable to the board for implementing these programs.

The Committee is consistently developing and improving ways to advance these goals, including

continuing education (CE), practice reviews, and certifications in specified aspects of practice.

Standards of practice

The Standards of Practice Committee (a sub-committee of the Quality Assurance Committee) has been charged by the Board with the task of developing and reviewing College standards and guidelines.

In 2018, the Committee worked on a number of standards and guidelines, including standards and guidelines on informed consent, the therapeutic order, antimicrobial stewardship, injection therapies, intravenous therapies, interprofessional practice, apitherapy, and infection control.

Emergency life saving

The Quality Assurance Committee made recommendations to the Board regarding advanced emergency training, including requirements specific to the profession in the form of new Naturopathic Advanced Life Support (NALS) training. Three courses have been approved for NALS.

All registrants are required to maintain cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for health care professionals (HCP) with automated external defibrillator (AED) education. Registrants with certifications in specified aspects of practice must also maintain advanced emergency training.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stefan Kuprowsky, ND
CHAIR

Tasreen Alibhai, ND

Sacha Elliott, ND

Kaajal Hayer, LL.B.
PUBLIC MEMBER

Mary Manning
PUBLIC MEMBER

Gaetano Morello, ND

Practice audits and course reviews

The Committee completed 18 practice audits for the 2018 year, and reviewed over two dozen applications by CE, certification, and qualification course providers for College approval – as well as many applications from individual registrants for consideration of new CE courses and training in specified aspects of practice.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee oversees the financial administration systems of the College which are managed by the Registrar and CEO, who is an ex officio Committee member. The Committee also advises the Board regarding financial administration.

For 2018, the Board appointed BDO Dunwoody as accountant for its annual Review Engagement. The accounting firm of Lam Lo Nishio continued to do bookkeeping in concert with College staff.

For the 2018 fiscal year, projections of the College's expenses proved to be accurate. The College again managed costs successfully in the face of significant work.

Committee expenses were well managed, with minor increases in some areas reflecting areas of increased activity.

Despite the need to manage a number of complex Inquiry files, legal costs were again managed well resulting in stable legal costs

comparable to the previous year. This was largely attributable to planned cost containment strategies and the efforts of the staff team and committees. There were no Discipline hearings in 2018, which would be the single most important factor resulting in increased legal costs if the need arose in future.

As legal costs related to Inquiry, Discipline, Registration, and Quality Assurance activities continue to be the area of greatest uncertainty, the College has allocated its resources strategically to ensure that the Inquiry, Registration, and Quality Assurance Committees are well-staffed. These investments have resulted in the resolution of a number of complex Inquiry matters by

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Spooner, ND
CHAIR

Stefan Kuprosky, ND

Barry Long
PUBLIC MEMBER

FINANCE COMMITTEE

consent order, eliminating the need to hold discipline hearings. It is important to note that although the College's planning is anticipated to reduce the volatility of legal and investigative costs over time, this year's continued savings in legal costs compared to earlier years cannot be relied upon annually, as legal costs are partially dependent upon the complexity and frequency of complaints and investigations.

The College took advantage of an opportunity to move to a larger space adjacent to its previous space in 2018. Further investment was made regarding the information technology capabilities of the College. These initiatives were taken consistent with the College's mandate and growth and were within available resources. The College also engaged BDO in planning regarding financial best practices moving forward.

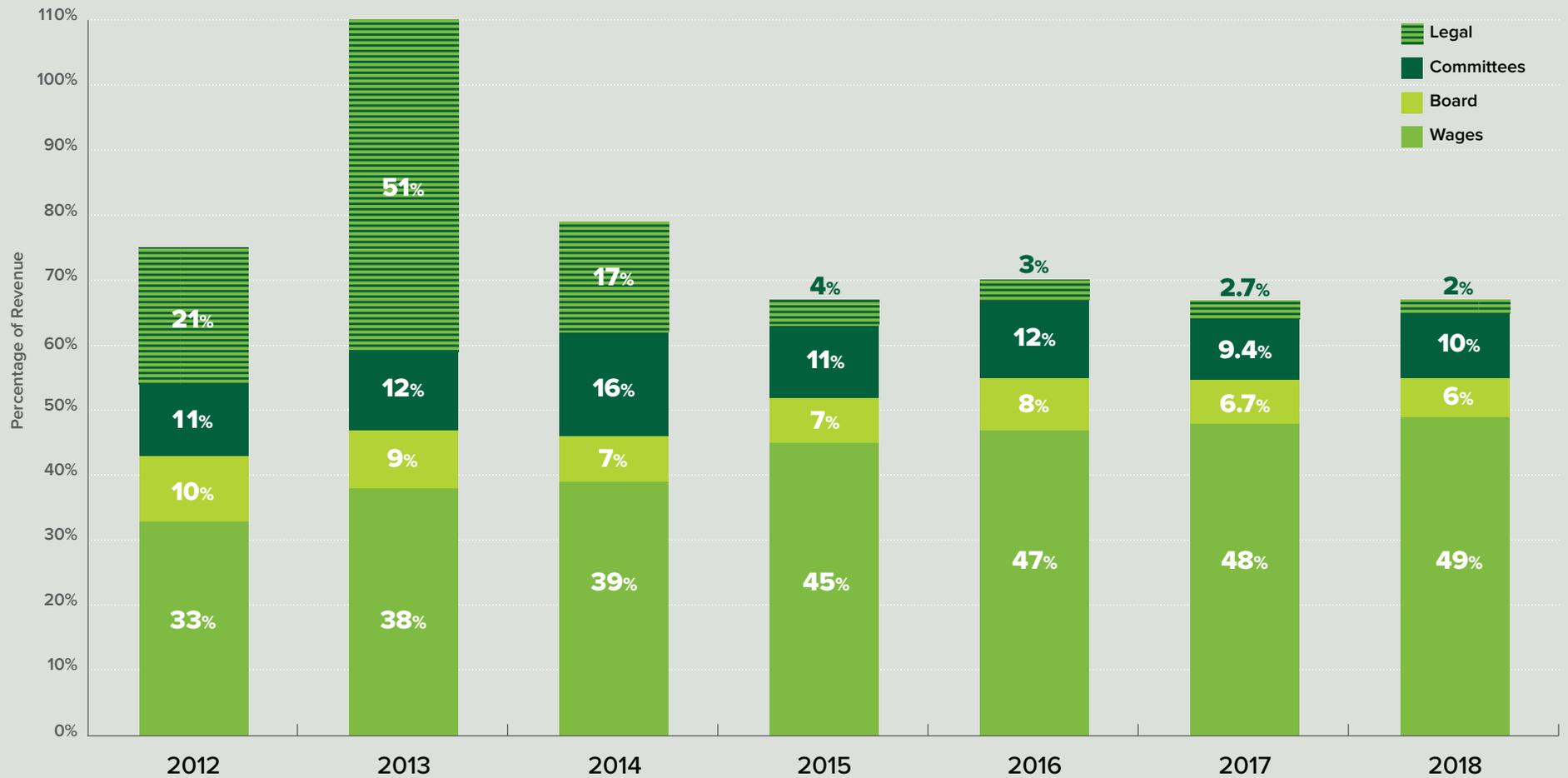
The efforts of committee members are noted by the Finance Committee. The financial cost of this expertise to the College was minimal in comparison to its value. The Finance Committee acknowledges the in-kind value

contributed by committee members, inspectors and assessors, both registrants and public members. The generous donation of time and energy of these individuals adds significant value to the College's efforts, and is essential in managing financial costs to the College.

As the financial statements indicate, the budgeting process continues to successfully ensure that the College functions effectively. In 2018, the College has continued to meet its mandate and to protect the public by effectively regulating the profession within its resources. Financial projections regarding resources to meet that statutory mandate have been accurate for the 2018 year, as has been the financial management of those resources. The budgeting process will continue to be dictated by fiscal requirements to ensure that the College has the resources required fulfill its statutory mandate as described in the *Health Professions Act*. Potential regulatory changes on the horizon will require the Board and staff of the College to address their ongoing financial planning to these challenges.

MANAGING RESOURCES

Expenses as Percentage of Total Revenue



REVENUE AND EXPENSES

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(year ended December 31, 2018)

Complete audited financial statements are available on the College of Naturopathic Physicians website: cnpbc.bc.ca

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Registration, other fees and cost recovery	\$ 1,284,763	\$ 1,137,211
Interest income	19,384	9,066
	1,304,147	1,146,277
EXPENSES		
Accounting, audit & advisory	32,633	23,811
Amortization	21,336	24,199
Annual general meeting	5,512	2,719
Board expenses (Note 7)	72,253	76,600
Committee expenses (Note 7)	133,148	107,816
Legal costs	28,431	31,027
Occupancy charges	75,978	67,880
Office expenses:		
General expenses	77,210	71,933
Insurance and security	10,208	10,094
Information technology support	11,500	-
Marketing	1,164	3,200
Payment processing charges	54,245	33,883
Printing	3,802	2,627
Professional fees	11,760	5,057
Repairs and maintenance	1,070	1,083
Telephone and utilities	24,489	16,208
Website and Internet	3,184	4,407
Wages and benefits	641,078	550,948
	1,209,001	1,033,492
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 95,146	\$ 112,785

COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Suite 840-605 Robson Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3

Phone (604) 688-8236
Toll Free (877) 611-8236

cnpbc.bc.ca

