



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**of the**

**20 & 21 NOVEMBER, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING**

### **COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF SASKATCHEWAN**

The Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan operates under an explicit set of governance policies. It strives to make its work as transparent as possible to the medical profession and to the general public.

Those portions of Council's deliberations that are not confidential are open to observation by any person subject to space availability in the meeting room.

At the conclusion of each Council meeting an Executive Summary of the meeting is widely distributed to the district medical associations, related organizations and the public media. This Executive Summary provides a brief overview of issues discussed, decisions made, and/or actions taken by the Council. If any person wishes more detailed information about any of the issues which are not subject to confidentiality constraints, these can be obtained by contacting Ms. Sue Waddington, Executive Assistant to the Registrar, at 101 – 2174 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7L 6M6, phone (306) 244 7355, Fax (306) 244 2600, or email [OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca](mailto:OfficeOfTheRegistrar@cps.sk.ca).

1. Council acknowledged that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional territory and home of the Cree, Dakota, Sauteaux and Métis Nations. We would like to affirm our relationship with one another now and for the future, and our role in guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care to benefit all people in this territory equally.
2. Council adopted the agenda and while no items were moved from the open to the closed agenda or vice versa, Council directed that confidential personal and identifying information be redacted from document Info 233\_20 and document Info 246\_20, if requested.
3. Council reviewed the minutes from the 25 and 26 September meeting of Council and approved the minutes without amendment.
4. Council received a report from the Associate Registrar on the actions taken in relation to the "For Action Items" from the previous meeting. It was noted a number of issues are in progress or have been completed and there are no items outstanding beyond a reasonable time.

5. Council reviewed, discussed and approved Monitoring Reports from the Registrar with respect to:
  - a. The Registrar's advancement of Council's End – 6 – Professionally Led Regulation;
  - b. The Registrar's Compliance with Council's Executive Limitation Policies pertaining to:
    - (i) EL – 14 – Development of Policies Governing the Practice of Medicine;
    - (ii) EL – 15 – Approval of Externally Generated Policies Governing the Practice of Medicine.
6. Council received a report from the legal department pertaining to its management of the legal workload.
7. Council received a report from Mr. Tim Edwards, IT/Office Manager and Ms. Debra Wright, Director of Registration Services on the renewal status of physician and corporation renewal.
8. Council received a report from Mr. Tim Edwards, IT/Office Manager on the technical issues pertaining to the September WebEx conference of Council and on best practices for security of personal devices.
9. Council received a presentation on tips for joining Council meetings by WebEx.
10. Council received an update from the committee pertaining to the policy development on their review of health-related renewal questions. The work will be informed by a survey currently being completed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. The matter will be returned to Council for consideration in January 2021.
11. Amendments to Bylaw 2.13 Podiatric Surgery Permits, were approved in principle for the purpose of consultation, with a particular focus on whether podiatric surgeons should be limited to working in an SHA facility.
12. Council received an update on the governance issues from the individual committees which are tasked to look at the following:
  1. Developing Better Communication with Physicians:  
Information obtained from CPSA about the tools it uses to communicate with their physician members will be reviewed, and will inform our work on this issue.
  2. Developing Better Communication with Patients:  
The committee's work is ongoing, and it expects to have additional information for the January Council meeting.
  3. Developing Expected Competencies for Councilors and Establishing a Process to Assist with Recruitment:  
There was discussion on what is occurring with some of our provincial sister regulators, in particular SALPN, and its efforts in seeking individuals with specific competencies to run for elected positions on its Council. Council directed the

Nominating Committee to provide a report on a possible process to assess and encourage appropriate individuals to seek election to our Council.

4. Additional Standing committees:  
A report was provided by the Associate Registrar pertaining to a change to the terms of reference for the Compensation and Benefits Committee. In addition, Council directed the President to bring back in January suggested changes to the Council - Registrar Governance Policy 3 (CR3) related to the process for the Registrar's assessment.
13. The Registrar reported that the survey of past Senior Life recipients indicated that these recipients appreciated the College recognizing their long service and the majority appreciated an opportunity to join Council and their colleagues at a banquet to receive this honour.
14. Council discussed the Executive Committee workload and determined that it would pay for preparation time as this committee's workload is substantial. The Registrar's Office will bring back amendments to Governance Policy 8 which deals with compensation for committee work.
15. Dr. Oladapo Mabadeje, Chair for the Committee on Diversity and Bias, reported on its progress to date. It is reviewing a document from the *American College of Surgeons Task Force on Racial Issues: Report of Recommendation November 2020* and the document from that Medical Council of New Zealand, *The Cultural Safety Baseline Data Report*. Preparations will also be made to attend a WebEx on *Everything You Wanted to Know about Diversity Committees*. This WebEx can accommodate 15 people so committee members, senior staff and any other interested Councilors will be eligible to attend.
16. A verbal report was provided on the Informatics Committee. While the committee has not yet met, the IT/Office Manager and the Registrar participated in a presentation by Dr. Ewan Affleck, a health informatics expert working on this issue at the CPSA. The committee will meet prior to the January Council meeting and review the resources collected to date, to inform both its terms of reference and the scope of the work to be completed.
17. The Policy on Assisted Reproductive Technology will be sent to experts for consultation on the content of the policy and brought back to the January Council meeting. The consultation will include a question as to the appropriateness of the qualifications of technicians and nurses as specified in the policy.
18. The Conscientious Objection Policy with the suggested changes from information document 243\_20 was adopted, with a sunset date of 3 years. Council requested that an article referencing this policy be written in DocTalk, and that notice of a consultation be provided one year prior to the sunset date, so interested individuals can provide feedback.
19. Council reviewed a request from the PEP Committee for increased funding and increased its contribution from \$135,000 to \$150,000 for 2021.
20. Council appointed Dr. D. Dewa to the Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging.

21. Council ratified the nomination from the Kendel Distinguished Service Award Committee and awarded the Kendel Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Chris Ekong. Dr. Ekong is a neurosurgeon who has provided service for many years to the province of Saskatchewan. He has also advanced residency education in underprivileged countries and has been dedicated to establishing and maintaining an international neurosurgical collaboration with Saskatchewan neurosurgeons. He is recently retired and continues his charitable work towards international computer literacy programs, in addition to his work with child injury prevention in Regina. It is hoped that we will be able to bestow this honour in person next year at the Council's Christmas banquet. The award will be announced in Doc Talk and placed on the website.
22. The Registrar provided an update on the progress of the implementation plan for the new strategic plan.
23. Ms. Beckie Wills, Director of Finance and Accounting, presented the Quarterly Financial Statements to the Period End 30 September, 2020.
24. Council reviewed a written application from Dr. Solgi to have the suspension imposed by the Registrar lifted. The Registrar imposed the suspension as Dr. Solgi was to practice under supervision as a term and condition of his licence and failed to do that as a result of relocation to British Columbia. Council upheld the decision of the Registrar maintaining the suspension for Dr. Solgi. Reasons for the Council's decision will be prepared and adopted at a future meeting.
25. Council conducted a penalty hearing pertaining to Dr. T. Coneys. Dr. Coneys admitted a charge of unprofessional conduct. The charge admitted was as follows:

*The Executive Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons directs that, pursuant to section 47.6 of **The Medical Profession Act, 1981**, the Discipline Committee hear the following charge against Dr. Thomas David Coneys, namely:*

*You Dr. Thomas David Coneys are guilty of unbecoming, improper, unprofessional, or discreditable conduct contrary to the provisions of section 46(o) and/or section 46(p) of **The Medical Profession Act, 1981** S.S. 1980-81 c. M-10.1, and/or bylaw 7.2. The evidence that will be led in support of this charge will include some or all of the following:*

- (a) On or about October 19, 2019 while at your residence you uttered threats against your spouse;*
- (b) You were charged criminally with uttering threats;*
- (c) You admitted the charge of uttering threats by entering a guilty plea to that charge; and*
- (d) On or about January 9, 2020 the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan convicted you of uttering threats and sentenced you to an 18-month conditional discharge.*

Submissions were made by Ms. Rochelle Wempe on behalf of the Registrar's Office and by Mr. Matthew Wiens on behalf of Dr. Coneys. The joint recommendation for penalty was accepted and Council imposed the following penalty on Dr. T. Coneys:

*The Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons imposes the following penalty on Dr. Thomas David Coneys pursuant to The Medical Profession Act, 1981:*

*1) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(b) of The Medical Profession Act, 1981, the Council hereby reprimands Dr. Coneys. The format of that reprimand will be a written reprimand;*

*2) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(g) of The Medical Profession Act, 1981, the Council directs that Dr. Coneys contact the Physician Health Program of the Saskatchewan Medical Association and follow all recommendations from that program.*

*3) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(g) of The Medical Profession Act, the Council directs Dr. Coneys to continue with any treatment he may be receiving from a psychiatrist or counsellor.*

The penalty will be posted on the College website.

26. Council received an update on the Status of Bylaws and noted that all Bylaws submitted are in effect.
27. Council received a presentation from Mr. Jason Mercredi, Executive Director of Prairie Harm Reduction Saskatoon on the "Safe Injection Site".
28. Council was provided a presentation on the College's Discipline Process.
29. Council approved the minutes pertaining to the closed session of the Friday 25 and Saturday 26 September, 2020 meeting of Council.
30. The President provided a report on the actions taken by the Executive Committee since the September Council meeting.
31. Council approved reasons for its decision, pertaining to Dr. M. A. R. Sayeed. Council refused to reduce the restrictions it had imposed when it restored his licence. The reasons for decision will be posted on the College website.
32. Council approved the reasons for the decision pertaining to Dr. M. Horri. Council refused to allow him to provide care, other than in his clinic. The reasons for decision will be posted on the College website.
33. Council approved reasons for the decision pertaining to Dr. J. Leontowicz in relation to the costs to be recovered. The reasons for decision will be posted on the College website.
34. Council amended the charges against Dr. R. Colistro.
35. Council received a report from the Registrar with respect to the Registrar's decision to release information to the Medical Services Branch from its Quality of Care process.
36. Council reviewed the report of a Preliminary Inquiry Committee and declined to charge a physician with unprofessional conduct. The College however directed the Registrar to send a letter to the physician expressing concern about the lack of due diligence in

signing business and practice related documents including a collaborative prescribing agreement.

37. Council reviewed the report of a Preliminary Inquiry Committee and declined to charge a physician with unprofessional conduct.
38. Council reviewed a Preliminary Inquiry Committee report and charged a physician with unprofessional conduct in relation to his failure to exercise due diligence to ensure appropriate and timely follow-up care to a patient on whom he performed a procedure. Synoptic charges will be posted on the College website.
39. Council reviewed a Preliminary Inquiry Committee report and declined to charge a physician with unprofessional conduct.
40. College staff will provide a report to Council in January to address what processes are currently in place for a pathology report that indicates possible cancer to be relayed to the physician and the patient.
41. Council reviewed a Preliminary Inquiry Committee report and charged a physician with two charges of unprofessional conduct. The first charge relates to his failure to exercise due diligence to ensure appropriate follow-up on the pathology report arising from a procedure performed and the second charge relates to failure to maintain appropriate medical records relating to the patient. Synoptic charges will be posted on the College website.
42. Council reviewed a Preliminary Inquiry Report and charged a medical student with three charges of unprofessional conduct.

The first charge alleges that the student inappropriately collected and copied documents containing the personal information and personal health information of numerous individuals. The second charge alleges that he inappropriately retained these documents and did not redact the personal identifying information. The third charge alleges that he disposed of these documents inappropriately or that he failed to exercise due diligence to ensure they were disposed of in a secure and appropriate manner. Synoptic charges will be posted on the College website.

43. Council received a report from the Associate Registrar on the progress made in relation to the outstanding cases on the discipline tracker.
44. Council received a report from the Deputy Registrar on the progress of cases pertaining to the Quality of Care process.
45. Council received a report from Dr. Alan Beggs on the results of the Councilor self-assessment. Additional tools will be sought to assist Council in its self-evaluation.
46. The President raised concerns about prescribing issues and the increase in deaths from overdoses related to opioid use. Council agreed these issues needed to be raised to the appropriate authorities for consideration of additional resources for harm reduction.