

JULY 2024

BOARD MEETING

As recorded at the Board of Directors' meeting held on July 8, 2024, which was hosted in-person at the College and virtually via MS Teams.

BOARD ADOPTS A 'ZERO TOLERANCE' POSITION STATEMENT ON CLOSED PREFERRED PROVIDER NETWORKS

The Board adopted the following position statement to address closed Preferred Provider Networks (PPNs) and other payer-directed care models:

Closed PPNs (and other payer-directed care models) pose potential risk of harm to patients, contravene established ethical principles guiding the profession and conflict with standards of quality patient care. As Ontario's pharmacy regulator, OCP has zero tolerance for any payment or reimbursement models involving pharmacies and pharmacy professionals that put patients at risk, disregard patient autonomy or that get in the way of a pharmacy professional's duty to put patient interests first.

Before its decision, the Board heard directly from patient Amy Miller about her personal experience with PPNs. The College has continued to hear from registrants and patients like Amy about PPN concerns and the need for a strong regulatory response.

The College will conduct policy analysis to further explore the extent that closed PPNs and other payer-directed care models present equity and ethical concerns and risk for patient harm, and to develop options for the optimal regulatory response(s). Ensuring that all patients are treated with respect and without discrimination is a key priority for the College, and this is the lens that will be applied to determine the appropriate regulatory response. Further details about this agenda item can be found starting on page 166 of the [Board materials package](#).

OTHER BOARD DECISIONS

The Board discussed and made decisions on the following items:

Appointment of scrutineers approved

The Board approved the appointment of Zubin Austin and Wayne Hindmarsh to serve as scrutineers for the 2024 Board elections. Each year, scrutineers are appointed to support the Registrar in fulfilling their electoral duties by ascertaining the eligibility of each voting registrant and verifying the votes following the elections. The scrutineers will provide the Board with a report on the fulfillment of their appointment after the election. Further details are available starting on page 130 of the [Board materials package](#).

Appointees added to Governance Committee

The Board appointed two Lay Committee Appointees to the Governance Committee. Ravil Veli and Aditi Agnihotri were both appointed, with Megan Sloan included as an alternate. These appointments were preceded by an update on the Governance Committee's activities related to the ongoing governance investigation, an explanation about the purpose of and governance framework for an independent investigation and options for receiving the independent investigator's report. The Governance Committee will be receiving the report about the third-party conflict of interest investigation involving a Board member. More details about the appointments to the Governance Committee are available starting on page 158 of the [Board materials package](#).

Budget increase approved for 2024

To effectively address emerging priorities and to strengthen OCP's strategic communications capacity, the Board approved a budget increase of \$267,967, with funds to come from the College's reserves. The investment will support the execution of the Board's zero-tolerance position on corporate pressures and build structural capacity for a new regulatory approach, which will require ongoing investments beyond 2024. Details of this agenda item are available starting on page 185 of the [Board materials package](#).

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The Registrar and CEO provided an update to the Board on recent operational activities at the College, part of a standing agenda item that helps the Board fulfill its oversight role. The report focused on, among other things, the College's work to address business pressures in pharmacies, changes to registration and quality assurance regulations, time-delayed safes, physician response to expanded scope of practice changes, Board elections, system partners engagement, an update on the College's Registrant Records System, and policies that are under review or development. The Board also reviewed the College Performance Dashboard with key performance results for the first quarter of 2024. More information about the Registrar's report is available in the [Board materials package](#) starting on page 54.

FEASIBILITY REPORT RANKS ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CORPORATE PRESSURES

Following a brainstorming session held by the Board in March 2024 that generated more than 100 ideas for addressing corporate pressures, College staff have been sorting, analyzing and classifying the ideas to determine their feasibility. The list of ideas, actions and stage of execution was shared with the Board. Significant progress has been made since March, though the process remains complex and will be tackled in phases over the course of the four-year strategic plan. A coordinated approach and continuous monitoring of both immediate and long-term impacts are essential. Key elements for success include project management, timely and transparent communication, and tracking the impact of each action. Staff are developing a comprehensive project plan with specific measures to assess progress. Regular updates will be provided, and the Board will be involved in making decisions on new policies, standards, and regulations needed for change. Further details are available starting on page 176 of the [Board materials package](#).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are open to the public, and the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 16 and 17, 2024. Special Board meetings may be called at any time. Please see our website for information on [upcoming Board meetings](#). Highlights from the Board meetings are also shared via X (formerly [Twitter](#)).