

JUNE 2018

Council Decides provides an overview of the decisions Council makes. These decisions shape nursing regulation in Ontario, and establish the goals, objectives and policies of the College.

Council met on Thursday, June 7, 2018. These are highlights of its decisions. We are committed to providing information about these decisions as quickly as possible after Council meetings. We will post the full minutes of the meeting by the end of July.

Annual Report

- Council approved the College's 2017 Annual Report, "*Leading in Change*." The College will now send the report to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, as required under Section 6(1) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. You can learn more about our 2017 Annual Report at www.cno.org/annualreport, in *The Standard* and on [Facebook](#).

By-Law amendments: Information on Find a Nurse

- After reflecting on feedback from nurses, members of the public and others, Council decided to defer their decision on the [proposed amendment](#) to the Register By-Law until September 2018. This will allow time for further work and research. The proposed change relates to the language we use on the public Register, Find a Nurse, to describe the status of NPs who have not completed the education required to prescribe controlled substances.

By-Law amendments: Fees

- Council approved the [proposed changes](#) to the College's Fees By-Laws. You can read the newly approved fees in the June issue of *The Standard*.
 - The College provided Council with a full report of all feedback, including an analysis of common themes that emerged from stakeholders' comments. Council carefully reviewed all feedback before making a decision.
 - 1,043 nurses responded to the proposed changes. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (RPNAO) also shared their feedback on the proposed changes.
 - Council noted that most of the responses were about the annual membership fee. Of those responses, more than 700 opposed the increase (including RNAO and RPNAO), and 43 supported the increase.
 - Council reflected on the [concerns expressed](#) in many of the responses and asked that the College publish answers to the most [commonly asked questions](#).
 - Council noted the [significant changes](#) to the College's role and work volumes, which has resulted in a growing demand on College resources.
 - Council reflected on its accountability to ensure the College has the financial resources to meet its regulatory mandate. This includes the College's ability to address the backlog of complaints, and provide timely services to nurses and applicants.
 - Council ultimately decided that the proposed fee increases were needed to ensure the College can continue to meet its mandate to protect the public and the reputation of the profession, and ensure the public trusts nurses.

Going paperless

- On June 6, Council was trained to use MeetX—its new secure portal for board and committee information.
- On June 7, all Council members used the online portal during the meeting.
- In September, Council will be fully paperless. Members will not receive printed copies of meeting materials.
- The College's committees are also working towards going paperless.

- Being paperless allows the College to distribute material more quickly, giving Council members more time to prepare for meetings.

New way of getting public input

- Council's [governance vision](#) includes advisory groups that will bring diverse views to the new board of directors. As a first step, Council decided to join other health regulators in supporting an independent [Citizen Advisory Group](#).
- The first issue Council will ask for input on from the advisory group is RN prescribing. In particular, Council is seeking input on how to ensure the public understands:
 - how to identify if an RN is allowed to prescribe medications
 - what they can expect from RNs who prescribe.

Practical Nurse Program Approval

- In March, as part of the pilot of a new program approval process, [Council approved](#) the first baccalaureate, Practical Nurse and Nurse Practitioner programs that were assessed using the new process. At this meeting, Council approved the remaining Practical Nurse programs. A list of all approved programs is available at www.cno.org/programs.

RN Prescribing

- The College presented Council with a report on our [recent consultation](#) and the feedback we received. Based on that feedback, Council provided direction for further work on:
 - practice expectations for RN prescribing
 - practice expectations for dispensing for all nurses
 - the medications that RNs may be permitted to prescribe.
- Council asked the College to provide more information about the benefits and risks of permitting RNs to prescribe all over-the-counter medications. Council had [previously decided](#) that RN prescribing would be limited to the following areas: immunization, contraception, travel health (preventive), smoking cessation and wound care (topical medications). However, the College received feedback during its consultation process that if RNs could prescribe over-the-counter medications for any purpose, it would enhance access to those medications for residents of long-term care where prescriptions are required. It would also subsidize medications for those who benefit from the Ontario Drug Benefit Program.
- In September, the College will present Council with more information about the risks and benefits of allowing RNs to prescribe any over-the-counter medications.

