

SEPTEMBER 2019

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, September 12, 2019. 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 October.

Final Report of the Long-Term Care Homes Public Inquiry

Council discussed the final report of the [Long-Term Care Homes Public Inquiry](#), the recommendations in the report, and the [actions already taken by CNO](#) to implement the recommendations. Council supported CNO's [commitment](#) to fully implement all the Commissioner's recommendations, and to continue to collaborate, cooperate and communicate with other stakeholders in the health care system to do so.

CNO will give Council a progress report about the implementation of the recommendations in the report at the December meeting.

Governance: Implementation of Vision 2020

Council President Cheryl Evans and CNO Executive Director and CEO Anne Coghlan met with the Minister of Health to discuss Council's governance vision, called Vision 2020. In order for Vision 2020 to be fully implemented, government needs to amend legislation. CNO will continue to engage with government about the need to amend the legislation.

NP and RPN scope of practice changes

The Minister of Health has asked CNO to support implementing [changes to the scope of practice](#) for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs). Council discussed the proposed changes and began a discussion about what regulatory mechanisms would be needed to ensure that these changes are safe for the public.

To make the changes to the NP scope of practice, the government needs to amend three pieces of legislation. CNO will continue to answer government questions, make changes to our resources, and engage with nurses, the public, educators, associations and employers regarding these changes.

To implement the RPN scope of practice changes, Council is responsible for proposing and consulting about changes to the Controlled Acts regulation under the *Nursing Act, 1991*.

We submitted the regulation about [scope of practice changes for Registered Nurses \(RNs\)](#) related to prescribing medications to the government in May 2019. Government is currently reviewing the proposed regulation.

Nurse Practitioner regulation

Council discussed the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators' (CCRNRR) project to harmonize NP regulation in Canada. Council discussed possibly registering NPs in one category (as we do for RNs and RPNs), since the [national entry-to-practice competencies for NPs](#) are now the same, regardless of the NP's speciality.

Council discussed what they will need to know going forward to make decisions on this issue, and how they think this project will impact nursing regulation.

PN entry-to-practice exam

Council approved that the Regulatory Exam - Practical Nurse (REx-PN), currently in development, will become the registration exam for PN applicants beginning in January 2022.

At the next Council meeting, Council will decide on the number of writes allowed for the exam.

Future Council meetings

Council decided that the dates of their meetings in 2020 will be:

Wednesday, March 11 and
Thursday, March 12

Wednesday, June 3 and
Thursday June 4

Wednesday, Sept. 16 and
Thursday, Sept. 17

Wednesday Dec. 2 and
Thursday, Dec. 3



Council in session
Photo credit Melanie Gordon