

MARCH 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 Wednesday, March 20, 2019 and Thursday, March 21, 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 April.

2019-2020 Executive election and committee appointments

Council selected the following members as the 2019-2020 Executive Committee, effective Wednesday, June 5, 2019:

- Cheryl Evans, RN, President
- Ashley Fox, Vice-President RPN
- Judy Petersen, Public Member
- Cathy Ward, Public Member
- Heather Whittle, Vice-President RN



From left to right: Anne Coghlan, Executive Director and CEO; Cathy Ward; Cheryl Evans; Ashley Fox; Heather Whittle; Judy Petersen. Photo credit Claudia Hung

By-Law amendments: Register and Fees By-Laws

- Council approved changes to the Register and Fees By-Laws. The changes increase the amount of employer information on the public Register. The changes are:
 - Currently, the Register lists a nurse's "primary" employer. This will change to all "current" employers.
 - Currently, there is no information about a nurse's past employment on the Register. Council decided that the Find a Nurse will list employers from the last three years.
- Council decided to allow CNO to charge a fee of \$100 if a nurse fails to notify us about changes in their employment status within 30 days.

By-Law amendments: Fees By-Law

- Council amended the Fees By-Law to remove CNO as the collector of the fee for the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Exam. As of Friday, June 1, 2019, applicants will pay the exam provider directly.

By-Law amendments: Register By-Law

- Council approved an amendment to the Register By-Law which changes the wording on Find a Nurse that describes NPs who have not completed controlled substances education. The new status says, “Entitled to practice. Cannot prescribe controlled substances until specialized education is completed.” Previously, the status said, “Entitled to practise with restrictions.” It also included this description in the NP’s information tab: “This member cannot prescribe controlled substances. They have not completed the education needed to do so.”
- Council made this change after CNO received feedback from nurses, employers, and other stakeholders concerned that “restrictions” might be mistaken as a conduct matter.

Controlled act of psychotherapy

- Council approved amendments to CNO’s controlled acts regulation to allow RNs and RPNs to continue to perform the controlled act of psychotherapy without an order, where not prohibited by other legislation such as the *Public Hospitals Act*, following the end of the exemption period on Tuesday, December 31, 2019. The regulation will come into effect once government approves it.

Governance vision

- CNO recently completed a pilot of our new appointment education and competency- and attribute-based appointments for nurses applying to serve on statutory committees. Council received a report of nurses’ feedback about the process and heard the Election and Appointments Committee’s perspective about the impact of the new process. Overall, the feedback was positive and both groups identified possible areas for improvement.



Phil Dickison, Chief Officer of Operations and Examinations for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Photo credit Claudia Hung

Practical Nurse examination

- Phil Dickison, Chief Officer of Operations and Examinations for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing updated Council about the development of a new state-of-the-art PN entry exam. [CNO is collaborating](#) with the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) on this project.



From left to right: Anne Coghlan, Phil Dickison & Cheryl Evans
Photo credit Claudia Hung

Risk-based regulation and sexual abuse

- Council discussed a preliminary report about CNO’s risk-based regulation project. The project analyzes all the cases of alleged sexual abuse CNO received between 2000-2017. CNO is working to identify common factors that contribute to the sexual abuse of patients and identify actions we can take to reduce sexual abuse of patients by nurses.

RN prescribing

- Council reviewed stakeholder feedback and discussed how it aligned with their vision that RN prescribing be safe for patients. Following this, Council approved amendments to the controlled acts and delegation regulations to authorize RN prescribing. Council agreed to send the proposed regulation to government for review and approval. RNs cannot prescribe medication until government approves the regulation and it takes effect.
- RNs working in hospital settings will not be able to prescribe medication because the laws governing Ontario hospitals do not permit them to prescribe medication for hospital in-patients and outpatients. For more information, read the [March issue of *The Standard*](#) or [Council’s briefing package](#).