

# Council Decides

This is an overview of the decisions Council made at their latest meeting. These decisions shape nursing regulation in Ontario, and establish the goals, objectives and policies of the College. We will post the full minutes of the meeting on [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org) in the coming weeks.

## Election and appointments: 2021-2022

Council appointed the Statutory Committee Chairs, statutory Committee members, and the Chair and members of the Sub-Committee on Compensation.

You can learn more about these committees and their work, and see a list of current members, at [www.cno.org/committees](http://www.cno.org/committees).

## Election of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee

**Decision:** Council re-elected Sandra Robinson, NP, as President; re-elected Naomi Thick, RN, as Vice-President, RN; Terry Holland, RPN, as Vice-President, RPN; Maria Sheculski, public member; and Diane Thompson, public member. Their terms of office will begin in June.

The Executive Committee provides leadership to Council, facilitates the efficient and effective functioning of Council and committees, fulfils the statutory role of the Patient Relations Committee, and makes decisions between Council meetings. More info about the Executive Committee can be found at [www.cno.org/committees](http://www.cno.org/committees).

## Executive Director update

CNO's Executive Director & CEO, Anne Coghlan, provided Council with an update about how CNO is advancing its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

For CNO staff, Council, and committee members, our key activities for 2021 will include developing an advisory group of CNO staff, increasing awareness and building competencies by promoting formal learning and resources for self-directed learning for CNO staff, and opportunities for education, including formal workshops and facilitated discussions and panels. We continue to develop our DEI plan for nurses, and members of the public.

## Program Approval

**Decision:** Council approved the Practical Nursing, Baccalaureate, and Nurse Practitioner education programs that underwent an annual review; the Baccalaureate programs that underwent a comprehensive review; and the new standalone Baccalaureate programs that underwent a preliminary review.

Program Approval is CNO's process for assessing entry-level nursing education programs in Ontario. You can learn more about Program Approval, and see a detailed list of all the education programs that were approved, at [www.cno.org/programapproval](http://www.cno.org/programapproval).

## Registration exams, amendments to the by-law

**Decision:** Council approved that proposed amendments to the Fees By-Law be circulated for consultation. The changes are related to how fees are collected for registration exams.

To become registered with CNO, applicants must meet several registration requirements, including completing a registration examination. Our current Fees By-Law allows CNO to collect various exam-related fees and then distribute them to the exam provider. To streamline the process, many of these payment processes are being shifted directly to the exam vendors. These changes require updates to our by-laws.

If you are a CNO member, watch for the March issue of *The Standard* for your chance to review the proposed changes and provide your feedback. Council will consider all feedback at their next meeting in June when they make their final decision on the changes.

## Report on Ministry's College Performance Measurement Framework

**Decision:** Council has approved submission of the College Performance Measurement Framework (CPMF) to the Ministry.

The Ministry of Health has a new annual reporting requirement for all health regulatory Colleges. CNO has provided evidence of how we meet each standard and where there are areas for improvement. You can learn more about the CPMF and review CNO's extensive report on pages 117-200 in the [Council meeting materials](#).

## Statutory committee annual reports

Council heard the annual reports of our statutory committees. The work of statutory committees is critical to CNO's mandate and the committee reports are an important accountability mechanism. It is a requirement in the RHPA that statutory committees present reports to Council each year.

You can read the reports and learn more about each committee at [www.cno.org/committees](http://www.cno.org/committees).

## Strategy 2021-2024: Update and next steps

Our new strategic plan emphasizes the fundamental role CNO plays in preventing harm before it occurs and influencing the broader health care system to create better patient safety outcomes. [Learn more about our new Strategic Plan 2021-2024.](#)

CNO staff gave Council an update about how we're putting the new strategy in action through modernizing practice standards, modernizing applicant assessment, and the Quality Assurance Program.

### Modernizing practice standards

As the nursing profession evolves and the health care needs of patients change over time, it is essential to have standards that are evidence informed, reflect contemporary practice, easily accessible to nurses and clearly understood by the public.

This project is in early stages, but some of the work we've done so far includes a literature review to gather evidence, forming an advisory group of nurses to gather perspectives, and hearing from other regulators who have recently modernized their standards to find out what lessons they learned on their journey.

### Modernizing applicant assessment

**Decision:** Council decided that the approved process for evaluating applicants for registration as an RN in Ontario be amended to include passing the NCLEX-RN as evidence of program equivalence.

CNO is accountable for making sure that everyone who is a nurse in Ontario is prepared to provide competent, safe and ethical nursing practice. This year, we started a comprehensive review of the application process. The goals of this review are to make our assessment practices more efficient, update our policies related to the registration requirements, and reduce the time it takes qualified applicants to become eligible to register in Ontario.

By reviewing the process, we saw an opportunity to make a difference for international applicants. Applicants who have successfully completed the [NCLEX-RN](#) exam on or after Jan. 1, 2015 will meet the nursing education requirement. The NCLEX-RN is a valid and reliable measure of an applicant's entry-level nursing knowledge, skill and judgment.

At its March meeting, Council approved amending the process for evaluating applicants for registration as an RN in Ontario. Now, it will include passing the NCLEX-RN as evidence of education program equivalence.

CNO will contact all applicants to whom the new assessment process applies and provide them with their next steps in the application process.

### Quality Assurance Program: Moving Forward

CNO staff provided Council with a debrief about how we're planning to approach QA in the future. Features of the new QA program, to be rolled out over the coming years, include greater program reach, grounding QA in the Code of Conduct and modern practice standards, coaching support, risk-based assessment, stakeholder engagement and an online system solution.

The QA program is CNO's commitment to the public that every practicing nurse in Ontario is engaged in continuous improvement throughout their careers. Learn more at [www.cno.org/myqa](http://www.cno.org/myqa).

## Year-end unaudited financial statements

**Decision:** Council voted to approve the year-end financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2020.

You can read the minutes of the Finance committee meeting on page 233 of the [Council meeting materials](#).