



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 16, 2016

This publication is emailed out to members and posted online on the College's website within two working days after each Council meeting. It covers some of the key highlights of the Council business. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad at 416-934-5625, toll-free at 1-800-565-4591, or by email at ifefegrad@rcdso.org.

DEPUTY MINISTER ADDRESSES COUNCIL

Dr. Bob Bell, deputy minister of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, shared his insights into what lies ahead with health care reform and the modernization of the health care regulation. He spoke of the challenges of addressing the complexity of delivery of more home and community based health care and improving mental health and addiction services. He said the modernization of the Regulated Health Professions Act is a government priority.

As the ministry moves to establish a primary care council to work on the development and adoption of primary care best practices, he said one of the first areas to be looked at will be opioid prescribing practices. He identified himself as a real believer in self-regulation, but said serious questions need to be asked about the record of health regulators in carrying out their responsibilities to protect the public's interest. He said there is also renewed interest by the government in regulations around sexual misconduct and abuse of patients.

He congratulated the College for its forward-thinking, and for our thoughtful approach and leadership in dealing with matters related to transparency and acknowledged our ongoing co-operation with the Ministry of Health.

SUPPORT FOR OSOMS REQUEST

Council agreed to support, in principle, authorizing oral and maxillofacial surgeons to order MRIs. A letter to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will recommend that the Ministry consider amendments to regulations under the Regulated Health Professions Act to permit College members who hold a speciality certificate in oral and maxillofacial surgery to order MRIs.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE ON NDEB

Ms. Elizabeth Wilfert, public member on Council, is the new public representative on the board of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) for a full three-year term.

NEXT STEP TOWARDS ELECTRONIC VOTING

Council approved a number of forms, a candidate's declaration form and an instruction guide in preparation for the launch of electronic voting for the December 2016 election. Once the election timeline begins, all this material will be posted in the Member Resource Centre on the College website for easy access by all candidates/members. The first Dispatch article with information about this election cycle will appear in the May/June issue, followed by a major feature article in the August/September issue.

ROBUST AGENDA OF PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE CONTINUES

The work of the committee is focused on member education and increased educational and support resources for individuals reporting sexual abuse or boundary violations of a sexual nature.

There is a new video on the RCDSO YouTube Channel about the importance of the development and maintenance of [appropriate professional boundaries with patients](#). A number of articles have appeared in Dispatch magazine since last year on topics such as understanding patient boundaries, mandatory reporting obligations, the new practice advisories on sexual abuse and social media.

The Sexual Abuse Program section of the website is totally revamped. The expanded information about the College's support of individuals reporting sexual misconduct is profiled, plus the section on duty to report includes information on reporting suspected child abuse and neglect, with a link to the new YouTube video, [Privacy Is Not A Barrier-Sharing Information With Children's Aid Societies](#).

The committee has extended an invitation to the Community Consultation Group (CCG) to sit in as observers at a meeting on November 4. The CCG is a group set up by the College with to expand engagement with the public of Ontario. More details about the group are in the [Who We Are section](#) on our website.

OPIOID PRESCRIBING PRACTICES OF DENTISTS

The Quality Assurance Committee noted that, in its review of the anonymized data from the provincial Narcotics Monitoring System about the prescribing practices over a 12-month period, the majority of dentists appear to be prescribing opioids appropriately. This confirms the data found in the results of the Pollara survey commissioned by the College as part of the research phase for the development of the new guidelines on the use of opioids for the management of acute and chronic pain.

REVIEW OF ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS

The Quality Assurance Committee will strike an expert panel to review our guidance to members on the use of antibiotic prophylaxis.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY AWARD INCREASES

Council supported an increase in the funding provided to Western for the award provided in the name of the College from \$350 to \$500. This is the first increase in over 15 years.

ATTENDANCE AT FEDCAR ANNUAL MEETING

Council agreed that it was important that Ontario, with the highest immigration numbers and internationally trained applicants for registration, have representation at the annual meeting of the Federation of European Dental Competent Authorities and Regulators in November. Discussions of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) are on the agenda. The College will be represented by the President, the Registrar and one other representative of the College to be selected by the Executive Committee.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS APPROVED

Council approved the RCDSO Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015. These statements represent an organization in good financial shape.

The audit process is an important part of the extensive checks and balances that are in place to ensure the fiscal integrity of the College. The auditors review expenditures year-over-year for their analytical procedures. They ask for explanations for any significant variances outside of their expectations, based on historical information. If any concerns are raised during their analytical review, the auditor reports this to the Audit Committee. In turn, the Audit Committee is duty bound to report this information to Council.

Another of the checks and balances in place is that the Audit Committee also meets privately with Steve Stewart, a partner at Deloitte, the auditor for the College. This meeting takes place without staff present. This open and frank discussion is the opportunity for the auditors to present any recommendations for improvements to our accounting control system or other procedures. During the discussions this year, there were none.

In fact, Mr. Stewart stated again, as he has several times in the past, that the College has good financial controls in place and that he could not offer any recommendations to improve the existing checks and balances. That is a fine vote of confidence in the processes at the College.

Now approved, the auditor's report will be published in our 2015 annual report and posted on our website by the end of June.