



Royal College of  
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

*Ensuring Continued Trust*

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

## Council Meeting - MAY 9, 2013

**This publication is e-mailed 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 e-mail at [ifefergrad@rcdso.org](mailto:ifefergrad@rcdso.org).**

### **ONTARIO FAIRNESS COMMISSIONER ADDRESSES COUNCIL**

The Honourable Jean Augustine, Ontario Fairness Commissioner, praised the Council for its leadership in addressing fairness to access issues. "We boast about the work you do," she said. She expressed her appreciation to the College for its willingness to support the work of the Office of the Fairness Commissioner and its proactivity in implementing its recommendations. She cited a number of achievements of the College, including our website, our work at a national level in working with the National Dental Examining Board and other regulators, our transparent registration process and the dignity and fairness with which we treat applicants. This is the Commissioner's second time addressing a College Council meeting.

### **HPRAC CHAIR COMES TO COUNCIL**

Tom Corcoran, chair of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council, made his first visit to Council and, on behalf of himself and the Minister of Health, congratulated the College for its leadership on regulatory issues in the province. HPRAC is the statutory organization that provides advice, on request, to the Minister of Health on any issues related to the regulation of health care professions. He called the decision of Council to engage in a performance audit by an outside objective party as "a brilliant move." He commended the College for taking the lead in seeking such an unbiased review.

Council is awaiting the final report from the Professional Standards Authority in Great Britain with its review of our performance matched against international standards. As College President Dr. Peter Trainor outlined in his speech to Council, the College does know at this point that it has met each and every international standard.

### **UPDATED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council unanimously approved a new Code of Conduct for Council members that clarifies the procedures that would be necessary if, in the rare circumstance, there ever was a violation of code. The clarity and fairness of the new process provides added protections for both the members involved and for the organization. These changes to By-Law No. 1 will be posted shortly on the College website.

### **CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC REGISTER**

Council unanimously approved in principle by-law amendments that would allow for the addition of information about deficiencies found during facility inspections performed by the College to the Register. This includes inspection of offices with a permit to install and operate a dental CT scanner and those with a permit for the administration of sedation and/or general anesthesia.

The changes strike an appropriate balance between the public's need for transparency and fairness to the members and the legitimate needs of the public for more information about matters that could directly and seriously impact their safety.

However, as soon as the deficiency is rectified, the information will be removed. This new information on the Register will only be on a go-forward basis. It will not be implemented retroactively as has been done at other regulatory colleges.

These recommended changes came from a transparency working group composed of the Executive Committee and chairs of the following committees: Patients Relations, Inquiries, Complaints and Reports, Discipline and Legal and Legislation.

The working group was convened to recommend this College's response to specific direction from the Minister of Health to another major regulatory college that information about facility inspections be posted on the Register. The Minister stated that she expected regulatory colleges to make this information public as part of their role in providing consumers with adequate information to make informed decisions about their choice of health care providers. Other regulatory colleges now have similar initiatives underway.

The removal of the notations on the Register once the member is in compliance provides an extra incentive to be proactive. Dentists have ample opportunities to prepare for an inspection. They are advised of the upcoming inspection visit about one month in advance and a date is set at a convenient time. Also, a detailed checklist is provided in advance of the visit so the dentist is aware of what will be covered during the inspection.

The proposed amendments will be circulated to members and other stakeholders for at least 60 days for comment.

#### **DENTISTS USE OF BOTOX® AND DERMAL FILLERS**

Council approved the use of botulinum toxin and dermal fillers by dentists within the scope of practice of dentistry provided the injection of botulinum toxin or dermal fillers is given intra-orally for a therapeutic or cosmetic purpose or the injection of botulinum toxin is given extra-orally for a therapeutic purpose. All other uses of botulinum toxin and dermal fillers are considered not within the scope of practice of dentistry in Ontario. An upcoming article in the August/September issue of Dispatch will provide more detailed information.

#### **STAGED DUES INCREASE APPROVED**

Council unanimously approved a staged fee increase. The fees have not changed since 2007. The increase would be in two stages: an increase of \$275 in 2014 and an increase of \$125 in 2015. Even with the proposed increases, dentists in Ontario would still be paying the lowest fees, both for registration and professional liability protection, of any dental regulatory college in the country. In large measure, the increase is required to allow the Professional Liability Program to assume more substantial risk. Other financial pressures included growing government requirements for greater accountability and oversight. Our auditor from Deloitte confirmed at Council that the College has good financial stewardship and is in good financial condition. A special message will be coming out later this week with a backgrounder on the proposed increases. As the dues increase requires a by-law amendment, the increases were approved in principle by Council and there will be the normal consultation with members about the proposed changes.

#### **NEW GUIDELINES ON IMPLANT DENTISTRY**

Council gave final approval to new Guidelines on Educational Requirements and Professional Responsibilities for Implant Dentistry. The Guidelines were originally approved in principle in June 2012. All the submissions received during the consultation process were reviewed in detail and appropriate changes made to the draft document. The Guidelines are now posted on the College website. A paper copy and an explanatory article will appear in the August/September issue of Dispatch magazine.

#### **GUIDANCE ON THE PREVENTION OF ORTHOPEDIC IMPLANT INFECTION**

Council has officially supported the 2012 guideline developed by the American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American Dental Association on the prevention of orthopedic implant infection in patients undergoing dental procedures. An article will appear in the May/June issue of Dispatch magazine about the guideline and its implementation.

#### **GRANTS TO NORTHERN ONTARIO DENTAL SOCIETIES**

Council has decided to end its historic contribution to assist the seven Northern Ontario component dental societies of the Ontario Dental Association, effective January 1, 2014. The reasons for the decision included, among others, the inappropriateness of a regulator giving grants to a professional association. Plus there are now significantly fewer geographical barriers to learning for dentists anywhere in the province with so many web-based educational opportunities available.

**OBSERVERS TO NDEB/RCDC**

Council has approved the attendance of Council members, public and dentist, to represent the College as observers at their examinations.

**PLP MOVES TO ASSUME MORE RISK**

Council unanimously approved that the College's Professional Liability Program move forward with changes to achieve the ultimate goal of building a more independent professional liability program. For decades, the College has been accumulating a contingency fund to protect PLP and the College's members. Now that fund has almost reached the \$25 million goal. An evaluation by PricewaterhouseCoopers has determined that there is now sound foundation to start the initial steps without increasing the College's liability of losses.

**COLLEGE MINUTES GOING ONLINE**

To increase transparency about the operations of the College, Council unanimously agreed to begin posting minutes of the public portions of Council meetings on our website, once approved by Council.