

COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS* OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Annual Report 2012

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL AND REGISTRAR

*“... in order that the public interest may
be served and protected” (Physiotherapy Act)*

LEGISLATION

Rules

Council has authority to establish Rules, which serve to offer more detail about how to apply or implement various aspects of legislation. As experience dictates Rules will continually be developed to help guide registrants and Council.

In 2012 a Rule, **Titles and Credentials** was approved. It describes how members are to correctly use their registered title “Physiotherapist” and its abbreviation “PT”. The Act requires that registrants add either one after their names. Other credentials (such as education degrees) are to be used with discretion/caution by members since they may lead to confusion or become a cause for complaint. For more details, read the Rule at the CPTNB web site. We will continue to educate members on the requirement and will seek full compliance within the described parameters.

Another Rule, **Specialty Certification** for PTs is almost ready to be introduced but we first, need to finalize some related procedural matters. CPTNB must be prepared to accommodate those PTs who

achieve such certification after successfully completing one of the CPA⁽¹⁾ programs. We must also be diligent in our handling of this new development. Members must understand that along with our provincial regulators and the Alliance - only specifically-approved CPA specialty programs will enable qualified PTs to use such new designations as part of their title.

Practice Standards

At the AGM 2011 members approved the Practice Standard on Fees and Billing. While general consensus was strong on most of the content, an unsettled matter is whether members should be permitted to use testimonials to promote their services. Following further research, Council opted to not change the references which limit the use of testimonials. However, we recognize that their use is becoming more common in the broad health care market, that consumers are also more informed and ultimately it may not be possible to prohibit their appearance. As such, we need to remind members that they individually must accept the inherent risks.

Guide on Fees, Billing, Advertising and Conflict of Interest

At the same meeting we also introduced members to a broader discussion which eventually lead to the development of a comprehensive guide (also posted at the CPTNB web site). While most of the content relates to members in private practice it is also of general interest, especially in relation to such topics as conflict of interest, treating family/friends, and gifts from clients. We trust members will find it a helpful resource.

Practice Bulletins

In 2012, Council also approved a practice paper, Over the Counter Drugs: Considerations for Physiotherapy Practice. It is based on a national paper. We are awaiting input from the N.B. Pharmaceutical Society before making it available to members - as promptly as possible. The key

message is, while some PTs are using OTCs, the inherent risks may far outweigh any benefits.

CPTNB STANDING COMMITTEES

Registration

The committee met three times in 2012 to address several issues and to consider two special applications.

One was a Re Entry candidate who, while being close to meeting qualifications, was nevertheless required to undergo a rather rigorous process since public safety must remain a priority. Following a six week rotating placement and an on-site evaluation by an external PT appointed by CPTNB, the member was granted full registration status.

Another application was a complicated case of a Canadian-educated PT who had never been registered to practise in Canada but after deciding to return here, attempted and failed the PCE-W twice and the PCE-C, three times. The mitigating factor was that during this time, the PT has been practising in another country so we felt it warranted closer scrutiny. The committee and Registrar finally determined to reject the application in the interest of public protection and to respect the integrity of the exam.

Complaints

There were no complaints to forward to the Complaints Committee in 2012.

Discipline

As a result of no complaints, there were no meetings of the Discipline Committee in 2012.

Professional Competency

There were no applications requiring specific input of the PC in 2012. The Alliance working group on competency held several teleconferences through

the year and compiled its findings. CPTNB Council is committed to engaging members in discussions about the possible development a formal competency model for N.B. and as it advances, the PC will be the designated lead.

COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE

The Registrar and Council satisfactorily concluded a carried-forward member undertaking related to charting and record-keeping. Otherwise, there have been neither formal complaints nor any new undertakings in the last year.

REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

At its maximum, our registry totalled 514 members in 2012 (exclusive of Temporary ones.) That is an increase of five from the previous year, with most new registrants being transferred from other provinces.

Recent graduates must initially register as Provisional members and practise under an identified monitor who must be another registered PT. We registered 10 provisional members in 2012. All but one passed the PCE-C on the first attempt. The provisional member who failed the first attempt was immediately placed under supervision of a registered PT who is required to submit intermittent Clinical Performances Evaluations until such time as the PCE-C is passed (within two years and/or three attempts.)

The total number of private practices in N.B. (i.e. "sites" for professional corporations, self-employed PTs, sole proprietorships and partnerships) increased to 109, with 5 closures. The environment remains fairly stable since for every new one, there is usually also a closing.

CPTNB continues to develop its own membership management data base and we are hoping to begin testing the system by early summer, 2013. As soon as we are ready to introduce it to members, we will

begin a concerted member education effort. The major goal is to introduce online, self-renewal.

OFFICIAL MARKS, PRACTICE AND TITLE PROTECTION

No complaints about the inappropriate use of title or practice term by non-PTs were reported in 2012. However, members are cautioned to seek advice from the Registrar and to remain diligent when considering practising or promoting physiotherapy in multi-disciplinary settings.

DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING

CPTNB continues to be the source of important practice data to both provincial and federal stakeholders. There is every indication that demands will continue to increase.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

Council continues its long-standing practice to manage its budget well with no issues being identified by the auditors. While we were unable to increase our cash reserves in this period in favour of retaining a second staff member, the five year revenue plan should achieve savings in the next few years.

Also see separate reports:

Statistics

Financial Review 2012

CPTNB COUNCIL 2012

President – Mark Davidson, PT
Vice-president – Christina Graves, PT
Secretary-Treasurer – Tiffany Weiss, PT
Member at Large - , Pauline Marquis-Doucet, PT
Member at Large - Shirley Jensen, PT Retired,
Member at Large - Sylvie Durepos, PT
Public Representative - Lynne Boulay (to Nov. 2012)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Registration - Andrea Bragdon, PT
Complaints - Gilbert Bélanger, PT
Discipline - Jacek Brachaniec, PT
Professional Competency - Melissa Anderson, PT

LEGAL COUNSEL

Barry Spalding
Chantal Thibodeau, Moncton
Deirdre Wade, Saint John

AUDITORS

Cumming Webber & Co., Saint John
Katie Langmaid, CA
Bruce Cumming, CA

REGISTRAR

Rebecca Bourdage

Assistant

Victoria LeBlanc

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⁽¹⁾ Canadian Physiotherapy Association

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