

Annual Report 2024

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL AND REGISTRAR

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

According to section 3(4) of the *Physiotherapy Act*, the objects of the College of Physiotherapists of New Brunswick are as follows:

“(a) to **regulate the practice of physiotherapy and govern its members** in accordance with this Act and the regulations;
(b) to establish, maintain and develop **standards of competence** among its members;
(c) to establish, maintain and develop **standards of qualification and practice** for the practice of physiotherapy;
(d) to establish, maintain and develop **standards of professional ethics** among its members;
(e) to **administer this Act** and perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as are imposed or conferred on the College by or under any Act; and
(f) such other objects, relating to physiotherapy, as the Council considers desirable, **in order that the public interest may be served and protected.**”
(emphasis added)

The CPTNB, its Council and committee members are dedicated to application of the legislation, regulations, and rules to protect the health and well-being of New Brunswickers. **This mandate of public protection is paramount to the CPTNB and directs its many activities.**

Our registered physiotherapists also have an essential role to play in public protection. Adherence to the core standards of practice and the code of ethics, coupled with sound professional judgement are key to the successful delivery of physiotherapy services to New Brunswick residents. This sets the bar for high-quality, ethical, evidence-based physiotherapy services in our province.

To achieve the objects of CPTNB, continuous monitoring of the federal, provincial, and territorial regulatory landscapes is required. Although there were no changes in 2024 to the *Physiotherapy Act* itself, amendments to other legislation had the potential to impact the work of CPTNB in the future.

For example, in June 2022, the *Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act* came into force in New Brunswick. This legislation was designed to ensure that the registration practices of regulatory bodies remain “transparent, objective, impartial and fair”, and gave the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) the power to intervene if registration practices were not meeting expectations. Late in 2024 we were advised that amendments to this Act were on the way, although at the time of the writing of this report there had been no further details shared.

In January 2024, Council members officially approved the repeal of section 5 of Regulation 8- Advertising and Promotion of Physiotherapy Services via Special Resolution. Section 5 of the regulation read as follows: “Advertising shall not contain testimonials or endorsements related to the member or services available from the member.” The repeal of this section of the regulation meant that client testimonials would be permitted in the future.

In June 2024, the Registrar advised Council members that the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) had plans to open the *Private Occupational Training Act* to improve enforcement related to private career colleges operating in New Brunswick. This is germane to physiotherapy assistants (PTAs), who may choose training via the non-accredited programs offered by these colleges. PTAs are not regulated in NB, but issues related to their competence and supervision are important considerations for our registrants.

REGISTRATION

By the end of 2024, the registry of NB physiotherapists included **643** individuals, including both practising and non-practising physiotherapists. This is an increase of **3** registrants from the previous year.

Registration numbers tend to fluctuate from year to year. Although we cannot always be certain of the cause, we do look for trends if and where they exist.

There were **28** physiotherapists registered as non-practising in 2024. These are typically individuals who still qualify for renewal but have taken a leave or have retired from physiotherapy practice.

Additions to the CPTNB Registries

CPTNB registered **33** new, individual applicants in 2024 including:

17 Provisional registrants – an increase of **1** from the previous year. These physiotherapists have passed the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE) and are working toward full licensure with CPTNB. In the interim, they practise under either a monitoring or supervision agreement. Most were graduates of Canadian schools of physiotherapy, except for **7** provisional registrants who graduated from equivalent programs outside of Canada.

13 Transferred registrants – concurrently registered or previously registered in other Canadian jurisdictions at the time of application to CPTNB. These physiotherapists could also have retained concurrent registrations in more than one jurisdiction. In 2024, the registrants transferred from Quebec (**3**), Ontario (**1**), Nova Scotia (**7**), and Alberta (**2**).

Temporary/Visiting Registry

There were **2** temporary registrations in 2024. The temporary registry includes physiotherapists from other Canadian jurisdictions who practice in New Brunswick to a maximum of 30 days in a calendar year. They must maintain registration in good standing in another jurisdiction to qualify for this registry.

Private Physiotherapy Practices

By year end CPTNB had registered **142** Private Practices including **21** new entities.

We also listed **12** additional branches- same owner(s), different locations- in the registry, which includes all physiotherapy clinics, as well as individual physiotherapists who are employed as independent contractors.

Removals from the CPTNB Registry

We closed records for **26** individuals in 2024, of which **22** physiotherapists ceased practising in the province,

mostly as a result of retirement. The remainder moved to other jurisdictions. We also saw the closure of **2** private practices.

Registrant Fees

Registrant fees remained unchanged in 2024.

2024 JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION

A total of 613 CPTNB registrants completed the jurisprudence examination between September 23rd and November 1st, with a fairly even distribution of exams written across the 6-week period.

Additional data from the exam were presented to Council, the Registration Committee, and the Professional Competence Committee for their review and feedback.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Registration Committee spent most of 2024 reviewing Practice-Based Assessments for provisional registrants seeking full licensure with CPTNB. As a result of this work, seventeen (17) provisional registrants were granted full licensure. Committee members also contributed valuable feedback to the jurisprudence examination process.

As part of their regular responsibilities the Registration Committee was also tasked with the review of requests for re-entry or reinstatement to CPTNB. Although these requests are relatively rare, they must be reviewed with due care and attention to ensure that physiotherapy services are provided by the most competent practitioners with current and appropriate training and experience.

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Complaint Cases in 2024

According to the *Physiotherapy Act*, a complaint concerning the “conduct, competency or capacity” of a registrant may be submitted to the Registrar and is considered a formal complaint only if written and signed by the complainant. Anonymous complaints are not accepted.

The Registrar immediately refers formal complaints to the Complaints Committee, who then examines relevant information and documents from all parties.

According to section 22(2) of the *Physiotherapy Act*, the Complaints Committee can:

- (a) direct that no further action be taken if, in its opinion, the complaint is frivolous or vexatious or there is insufficient evidence of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity;
- (b) refer in whole or in part, the allegations of professional misconduct, incompetence, or incapacity to the Discipline Committee;
- (c) caution the member and, if it considers it appropriate, require an undertaking by the member in respect of a specific act or omission; or
- (d) take such other action as it considers appropriate in the circumstances to resolve the complaint as long as such is not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations.

In 2024, there were two (2) complaints submitted to CPTNB by members of the public, both of which resulted in cautions to the respective physiotherapists.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

There were no referrals from the Complaints Committee to the Discipline Committee in 2024.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE COMMITTEE

As part of the work completed in 2024, the Professional Competence Committee reviewed and finalized the new national standards of practice, which were used as support documentation for the new jurisprudence examination for CPTNB registrants.

The Committee also reviewed data from the annual professional portfolio process and performed a detailed review of the questions that had been constructed for the new jurisprudence examination.

Other topics of concern to the Committee included cross border licensure and the reporting of continuing education hours during the annual renewal period.

CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY REGULATORS (CAPR)

The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) has been a key stakeholder in the national and international physiotherapy communities, with a primary mandate of credentialing internationally educated physiotherapists, and administering the

Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE) for all physiotherapists wishing to practice in Canada.

CPTNB has been a long-time member of CAPR, with the registrar as a member of both the CAPR Board of Directors and the CAPR Registrars' Committee.

Following the CAPR Registrars' Summit in March 2024, the Registrars' Committee began taking steps toward amicably separating from CAPR. While most physiotherapy regulators across Canada will continue to rely on CAPR for credentialing and examination services, the separation was designed to facilitate a more hands-off approach with respect to the internal workings of the organization.

Following more than two years of focused work on improving and streamlining their services, CAPR announced a new national competency examination for Canadian and internationally educated physiotherapists, slated to begin in January 2026.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

The budget for 2024 received final approval by Council members after preliminary review and discussion in the fall of 2023. As part of the new budget, Council voted to approve the purchase of a new registrant database for 2025 and beyond, and CPTNB staff were tasked with operationalizing the new platform.

Early in 2024, Council also approved an investment strategy in consultation with a financial advisor at CIBC Wood Gundy. The goal was to increase reserves over time while maintaining liquidity for future complaints and discipline proceedings.

In April 2024, Council members approved in principle the closure of the physical office space for CPTNB. It was agreed that significant savings could be realized with the change to a virtual office environment. All staff members began to work virtually once the 5-year lease expired on October 1st.

The review engagement for 2024 was completed early in 2025 by Bruce Cumming, CA, of Cumming and Associates, with the approved financial statements slated for acceptance by registrants at the Annual General Meeting. As in past years, there were no concerns expressed by the auditor regarding financial operations or cash flow.

At the end of the fiscal year on December 31st, 2024, there was an excess of revenue over expenditures of **\$48,300** and net assets of **\$433,000**.

CPTNB COUNCIL 2024-25

President: **Julie McGivery, PT**

Vice-President: **Meak Chhuom, PT**

Secretary-Treasurer: **Monica Johnston, PT**

Member at Large: **Cindy McLaughlin, PT**

Member at Large: **Sascha Boulet-Devost, PT**

Member at Large: **Ashley Evers, PT**

Public Representative: **Micheal Mortlock**

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2024-25

Registration: **Andrea Bragdon, PT**

Complaints: **Serge Arsenault, PT**

Discipline: **TBD**

Professional Competence: **Karla Faig, PT**

LEGAL COUNSEL

Deirdre Wade, K.C., Cox & Palmer, Saint John

Cathy Fawcett, K.C., Fawcett Cutler, Saint John

AUDITOR

Bruce Cumming, CA, Cumming & Associates, Saint John

STAFF MEMBERS

Ellen Snider, Registrar

Chantal LeBlanc, Assistant Registrar

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