



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Statutory Committee Annual Reports **2022-2023**

- Discipline Committee.
- Executive Committee.
- Fitness to Practice Committee.
- Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee.
- Patient Relations Committee.
- Quality Assurance Committee.
- Registration Committee.



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

**Discipline Committee Annual Report
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

As per section 11 (1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, please find below a report of the activities of the Discipline Committee for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

The Discipline Committee as a whole met once during the reporting period, on July 18, 2022, for its annual Committee training.

Hearings Completed

A panel of the Discipline Committee completed five uncontested and two contested hearings in the reporting period.

1. CoNO & Natasha Turner (uncontested)

Hearing date: May 2, 2022

Decision and Reasons issued on June 27, 2022

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$32,629

The Panel did not order the Registrant to pay the College's costs based on the undertaking to resign the Registrant's certificate of registration.

2. CoNO & Allan Bortnick (uncontested)

Hearing date: May 16, 2022

Decision and Reasons issued on August 3, 2022

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$68,459

The Panel did not order the Registrant to pay the College's costs based on the undertaking to resign the Registrant's certificate of registration.

3. CoNO & Kurt Stauffert (uncontested)

Hearing date: October 11, 2022

Decision and Reasons issued on December 12, 2022

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$59,742

The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$7,500, which amounted to 13% of the College's costs.

4. CoNO & Helen Cohen (contested)

Hearing date: November 4, 2022

Decision and Reasons issued on December 14, 2022

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$13,510

The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$8,000, which amounted to 59% of the College's costs.

5. CoNO & Karim Dhanani (two separate hearings, both uncontested)

DC21-01

Hearing date: November 8, 2022

Decision and Reasons issued on January 31, 2023

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$52,714

The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$11,000, which amounted to 21% of the College's costs.

DC22-02

Hearing date: November 8, 2022

Decision and Reasons issued on February 13, 2023

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$25,795

The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$6,000, which amounted to 23% of the College's costs.

6. CoNO & Richard Dodd (contested)

Hearing dates: December 5, 20, 2022; February 14, 2023

Decision and Reasons issued on May 2, 2023

The Panel found the Registrant had committed professional misconduct.

Total cost to the College: \$110,256

The Panel ordered the Registrant to pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$77,283.04, which amounted to 70% of the College's costs.

In accordance with s. 23 (2) 10 of the Health Professions Procedural Code Decisions and Reasons of the Discipline Committee are publicly available on the College's website.

New Referrals from the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee

Specified allegations against the following Registrants were referred to the Discipline Committee by the ICRC during the reporting period:

- Karim Dhanani (hearing completed)
- Helen Cohen (hearing completed)
- Michael Prytula
- Michael Um
- Colbran Marjerrison

Statistics for the Reporting Period:

Number of uncontested Hearing Days: 5

Number of contested Hearing Days: 4

Reinstatement Hearings: 0
Divisional Court Reviews: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND
Chair, Discipline Committee
10 July 2023



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

**Executive Committee Annual Report
April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023**

As per section 11 (1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, this serves as the annual report of the Executive Committee (PRC) for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

During the reporting period the Executive Committee met once, on January 16th, 2023. This meeting was to discuss a time sensitive matter, namely to approve an amendment to the accommodation section of the Examination Policy. The amendment ensures that a physical disability preventing a candidate from completing a component of the clinical practical examination does not prevent them from being issued a certificate of registration, provided they are willing to accept an acknowledgement and undertaking that restricts their practice in the relevant areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND
Council Chair
10 July 2023



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

**Fitness to Practise Committee Annual Report
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

As per section 11 (1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* please find below a report of the activities of the Fitness to Practise Committee for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

There were no referrals to or hearings held of the Fitness to Practise Committee in the reporting period.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND
Chair, Discipline Committee



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

**Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee Annual Report
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

As per section 11 (1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* please find below a report of the activities of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

During the reporting period the ICRC held 13 meetings via video conference.

Closed matters

The Committee closed 42 matters with the number of dispositions as follows:

- No Further Action: 10
- Letter of Counsel: 10
- Oral Caution: 2
- Specified Continuing Education and Remediation Program (SCERP): 3
- SCERP & Oral Caution: 4
- SCERP & Letter of Counsel: 2
- Acknowledgement & Undertaking: 1
- Referral to Fitness to Practice: 0
- Referral to Discipline Committee: 9
- Frivolous and vexatious: 0
- Withdrawn - No further Action: 1

There were 2 health inquiries during this reporting period.

There were 2 decisions of the ICRC that were appealed to the HPARB in this reporting period and returned to the ICRC for further investigation.

Interim Orders

There were no Interim Orders made by the ICRC during this reporting period.

However, the ICRC agreed to accept an Acknowledgement and Undertaking signed by 1 Registrant in lieu of directing the CEO to make an interim order to impose terms, conditions and limitations on the Registrant's certificate of registration. The Acknowledgement and Undertaking is no longer in effect.

New investigations

7 investigations under s. 75.1.a of the HPPC were initiated in the reporting period based on the information received from the following sources:

- Public inquiries: 4
- Matters reported by Registrants: 0
- Matters reported by other College departments: 2
- Referral from ICRC to CEO: 1
- Referral from QAC to ICRC: 0
- Referral from another regulator: 0

In addition, the ICRC received 17 formal complaints about Registrants of the College.

Complaints and Reports filed with the ICRC included one or more of the following concerns:

- Advertising: 6
- Inappropriate billing: 5
- Inappropriate patient care: 8
- Practising outside of Scope: 8
- Failure to comply with IVIT/Inspections: 0
- Sexual abuse/Boundaries: 1
- Failure to comply with an order of the ICRC: 1
- Practising while inactive/suspended: 2
- Record keeping: 3
- Lab testing: 0
- Delegation: 1
- Harassment: 1
- Failure to comply with QA Program: 1
- Failure to cooperate with an investigator: 1
- Unprofessional conduct: 6

Complaints/Reports Investigation Timelines

The average length of a Complaint/Report investigation during the last reporting period was 195 days, with the shortest investigation completed in 55 days and the longest in 373 days.

Financial data: Complaints/ Reports Investigation

The cost of an investigation includes the College's legal expenses, investigators' fees (where formal investigator appointments are required), experts' fees, the ICRC per diems, and mailing costs. The average amount spent on a matter in the reporting period was \$2,866. The lowest cost of the investigation was \$150 and the highest was \$9,598.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Erin Psota, ND
Chair, Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
July 7th, 2023



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Patient Relations Committee

Annual Report 2022-2023

As per section 11 (1) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, Schedule 2 of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, this serves as the annual report of the Patient Relations Committee (PRC) for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

During the reporting period the PRC held 2 virtual meetings and received 2 updates.

The PRC received did not receive any new applications for Funding for Therapy/Counselling during the reporting period.

The PRC continues to oversee the funding of 5 approved applications. The College's funding program managed by the PRC provided \$9,205 to applicants during the reporting period and \$31, 536.80 since it's inception.

In addition to overseeing the Funding program, the PRC reviewed and updated its program policies to ensure they align with the program deliverables and finalized a number of Boundary Scenarios to be used by the College in communications to the profession. The PRC also began the process of researching the legal and policy implications of extending funding beyond the regulatory maximums.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gudrun Welder, ND
Chair



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Quality Assurance Committee Annual Report for 2022/2023

In accordance with section 11 (1) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, Schedule 2 of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, the Quality Assurance Committee is pleased to provide the following report on its activities for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

The Quality Assurance Committee held 8 meetings during the reporting period.

Self-Assessments

For the 2022/23 registration year, Registrants were required to complete a total of three (3) self-assessment questionnaires. This included one (1) mandatory Record Keeping Self-Assessment and two (2) additional self-assessments of their choosing.

Registrants required to complete the Self-Assessment by March 31, 2023: 1582

Registrants who completed the Self-Assessment by March 31, 2023: 1256

% of Registrants who submitted by the deadline: 79.4%

Continuing Education

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Quality Assurance Committee reduced the number of required CE credits while ensuring that Registrants remain compliant with the QA Program. During this reporting period, Registrants only needed to submit two-thirds of the required number of credits for their cycle.

CE course/credit applications received: 373

CE course/credit applications approved: 343

% of CE course/credit applications approved: 92%

Number of approved applications requesting Jurisprudence, Pharmacology, or IVIT credits:

IVIT: 15

Pharmacology: 61

Jurisprudence: 9

Live/in-person course applications: 100 (29%)

Online/webinar course applications: 243 (71%)

Group II Registrants required to submit CE logs by the Sept. 30th deadline: 484

Group II Registrants who submitted by the deadline: 479

% of Group I Registrants who submitted by the deadline: 97.6%

CE Logs submitted with discrepancies requiring correction: 76
% CE Logs submitted with discrepancies requiring correction: 16%

CE deferral/extension requests received: 9
CE deferral/extension requests approved: 1

Peer & Practice Assessments

For the reporting year all Peer and Practice assessments were conducted virtually. The assessment included a review of specific aspects of the Registrant's premises, record keeping practices, certain College standards and guidelines, their professional portfolio and an in-depth clinical discussion of one patient chart.

Registrants randomly selected for a Peer & Practice Assessment: 100
Deferral requests received: 7
Deferral requests approved and returned to the random selection pool: 7
Registrants who went inactive or resigned prior to completing their Peer & Practice Assessment: 1
QA Ordered Assessments outside of regular Peer & Practice Assessment Schedule: 1-
Not completed as Registrant reclassified to Inactive
Total number of Peer & Practice Assessments completed: 92

Non-Compliance

In accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act, the Quality Assurance Regulation and the Program Policies, where a Registrant fails to participate in the Quality Assurance Program and is deemed to be non-compliant, the Quality Assurance Committee may refer the matter to a panel of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee for investigation.

Registrants referred to the ICRC for non-compliance with the QA Program: 1

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Sullivan, Chair

July 7, 2023



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Registration Committee Annual Report April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

During the reporting period noted, the Registration Committee met 10 times to review referred applications for registration, class change applications (over two-years), program policies related to Registration and Examinations, and life registration applications, and set remediation plans for exam candidates who had made two unsuccessful attempts of a College examination.

Entry-to-Practise

108 applications for registration were received between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. Of these, four applications for registration were referred to the Registration Committee for review; of these, three were to address concerns regarding a physical or mental condition or disorder [under subsection 3(4) of the Registration Regulation], and one was for currency [under subsections 5(4)(a) and 5(2)(b) of the Registration Regulation]. Of those referred, three certificates of registration were granted, and one was granted after the completion of additional training or examinations as set out by a Panel of the Registration Committee. No assessments were conducted to determine substantial equivalency via the College's Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) program.

Applications for Life Registration

The Committee reviewed two applications for life registration under section 23(1) of the College by-laws.

Registration

During this reporting period, the Registration Committee reviewed four applications for class change from Inactive to General (over two-years) (under section 10(1)(6) of the Registration Regulation)

Examinations

The Committee continued to set exam plans of remediation, for candidates who have made two unsuccessful attempts of a College examination. 14 plans of exam remediation were set during this period for candidates who had made two unsuccessful attempts of a College examination.

Policy Updates

The Committee reviewed and approved draft amendments to the Registration policy including requirements for electronic criminal record checks, removal of the guarantor requirement for public register photo submissions, and currency requirements.

The Committee also approved draft amendments to the Language Proficiency Policy, the Examinations policy including those related to accommodation requests, the IVIT Program & Examination Policy, the Prescribing and Therapeutics Program & Examination Policy, and the Clinical Examinations policy.

Committee Evaluation Review



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Sandi Verrecchia with Satori Consulting Inc. presented a review of scores from the Registration Committee's self-evaluation.

IVIT Course Changes Review

The Committee reviewed and approved minor updates to a College-approved IVIT training course.

Emergency Class Certificate of Registration

The Committee reviewed and approved draft amendments to the Registration Regulation for the addition of an emergency class certificate of registration as per directives from the Ministry of Health, including requirements for issuance of a certificate in the Emergency class, Terms, Conditions, and Limitations on Emergency class certificates of registration, and requirements for transferring from the Emergency Class to the General class.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle O'Connor, ND (Chair)