



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

**Council Meeting
January 28, 2026**

**Video Conference
APPROVED MINUTES**

Council	
Present	Regrets
Dr. Felicia Assenza, ND (5:5)	Dr. Amy Armstrong, ND (4:5)
Ms. Naomi Bussin (2:2)	Ms. Sarah Griffiths-Savolaine (0:5)
Mr. Dean Catherwood (5:5)	Ms. Marjia Pajdakovska (3:5)
Ms. Lisa Fenton (5:5)	
Dr. Brenda Lessard-Rhead, ND (Inactive) (5:5)	
Dr. Denis Marier, ND (5:5)	
Mr. Paul Phillion (5:5)	
Dr. Erin Psota (5:5)	
Dr. Jacob Scheer, ND (4:5)	
Staff Support	
Mr. Andrew Parr, CAE, CEO	
Mr. Jeremy Quesnelle, Deputy CEO, Regulation	
Ms. Monika Zingaro, Human Resources Coordinator	
Guests	
Ms. Rebecca Durcan, Legal Counsel	
Mr. Barry Sullivan, Governance Committee, Vice-Chair	

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The Chair, Dr. Brenda Lessard-Rhead, ND (Inactive), called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and she welcomed everyone to the meeting, as well as acknowledging those attending the meeting via live stream. With that, the Chair noted that the meeting was now being live streamed via YouTube to the College's website.

2. Consent Agenda

2.01 Review of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was circulated to members of Council in advance of the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any items to move to the main agenda for discussion. There were none.

MOTION:	To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
MOVED:	Paul Phillion
SECOND:	Jacob Scheer
CARRIED.	

3. Main Agenda

3.01 Review of the Main Agenda

A draft of the Main Agenda, along with the documentation in support of the meeting had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda. There were none.

MOTION:	To adopt the Main Agenda as presented.
MOVED:	Lisa Fenton
SECOND:	Erin Psota
CARRIED.	

3.02 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair reminded Council members of the updated Declarations of Conflict-of-Interest process. A summary of the Annual Conflict of Interest Questionnaires completed by Council members have been included in the Council package to increase transparency and accountability initiatives, and to align with the College Performance Measure Framework Report (CPMF) launched by the Ministry of Health.

4. Monitoring Reports

4.01 Report of the Council Chair

The Report of the Council Chair was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair reviewed the report with Council. She welcomed and responded to questions from the Council.

MOTION:	To accept the Report of the Council Chair as presented.
MOVED:	Dean Catherwood
SECOND:	Erin Psota
CARRIED.	

4.02 Report on Regulatory Operations from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Report on Regulatory Operations at December 31, 2025, from the CEO was circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. Andrew Parr, CEO, provided highlights of the report and responded to questions that arose during the discussion that followed.

MOTION:	To accept the Report on Regulatory Operations at December 31, 2025, from the CEO.
MOVED:	Paul Phillion
SECOND:	Jacob Scheer
CARRIED.	

5. Council Governance Policy Confirmation

5.01 Review/Issues Arising

5.01(i) Executive Limitation Policies

Council members were asked if they had any questions or matters to note with respect to the Executive Limitations policies based on the reports received. No issues were noted at this time.

5.01(ii) Ends Policies

Council members were asked if they had any questions or matters to note with respect to the Ends policies based on the reports received. No issues were noted.

5.01(iii) Council-CEO Linkage Policies

Council members were asked if they had any questions or matters to note with respect to the Council-CEO Linkage policies based on the reports received. No issues were noted.

5.02 Detailed Review (as per GP08) – Governance Process Policies (Part 1 – GP01-GP18)

Mr. Barry Sullivan, Governance Committee (GC) Vice-Chair, provided the Council with a detailed presentation reviewing the responses and comments submitted by Council members in relation to the Governance Process policies detail review, and highlighted the directive of the grouping of policies.

Council members were also asked if there were any members who wished to discuss the grouping of policies, and Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Parr responded to questions that arose during the discussion.

MOTION:	To adopt the recommended policy changes as presented.
MOVED:	Dean Catherwood
SECOND:	Erin Psota
CARRIED.	

6. Business

6.01 Defining Relationships and Related Terminology

A Briefing Note circulated in advance of the meeting informed the Council that recently the College has experienced challenges in properly categorizing its relationships with external organizations and individuals within the regulatory framework, and a suggested solution to

address this could be a Council developed common understanding of the key regulatory relationships in which it is engaged and associated terminology.

Mr. Parr provided a detailed overview of the information highlighted within the Briefing Note, as well as providing related examples and responded to any questions that arose during the discussion.

MOTION:	To adopt the terminology relating to the College's relationships with external organizations.
MOVED:	Denis Marier
SECOND:	Paul Phillion
CARRIED.	

7. Council Education

7.01 Program Briefing – Quality Assurance Program

The Council received an educational program briefing and presentation by Mr. Jeremy Quesnelle, Deputy CEO, Regulation, about the Quality Assurance (QA) Program. He highlighted the information provided in the briefing, for instance, the three main components of the QA Program: Self-Assessments, Continuing Education, and Peer and Practice Assessments, and gave detailed examples of how each component is completed by both registrants of the College and by staff of the College. He responded to questions asked by Council at the conclusion of his presentation.

8. In-camera Session (Pursuant to paragraph (d) of section 7(2) of the HPPC)

8.01 Motion to Begin In-camera Session

The Chair called the meeting to move to an in-camera session at 11:01 a.m.

MOTION:	That the Council moves to an in-camera session pursuant to paragraph (d) of section 7(2) of the Health Professions Procedural Code in order to discuss operational and personnel matters.
MOVED:	Denis Marier
SECOND:	Naomi Bussin
CARRIED.	

9. Other Business

The Chair asked if there was any other business to be brought before the meeting ended. There was none.

10. Meeting Evaluation and Next Meeting

10.01 Meeting Evaluation

The Chair advised the Council members that the newly adopted method to complete the meeting evaluation via a Zoom survey will take place again and that the survey will appear on each Council member's screen.

The Chair asked each Council member to take a few moments to complete the survey. The Chair reviewed the results of the survey, and there was one area of concern raised relating to the in-depth policy review. The Chair spoke to this and asked if the person is comfortable in doing so, to reach out to her and provide more details to ensure their concern can be addressed and improved upon for the next detailed review.

10.02 Next Meeting

The Chair noted for Council that the next regularly scheduled meeting is set for March 25, 2026. This meeting will be held virtually via video conference.

In addition, the Chair advised the Council that the May 2026 in-person meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, for a full-day training session, and a half-day business meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

11. Adjournment

11.01 Motion to Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

MOTION:	To adjourn the meeting.
MOVED:	Paul Phillion
SECOND:	Denis Marier

Recorded by: Monika Zingaro
Human Resources Coordinator
January 28, 2026

Approved: March 25, 2026