



May 13, 2020

News



In addition to providing updates on a number of College activities, this edition of the *News Bulletin* also focuses on recent changes introduced by the College Council in recognition of the impact of the pandemic on our Members and College operations.

This bulletin has more content than usual because we will not be issuing a summer edition of our quarterly *iNformeD* newsletter.

Council Changes to the Regulatory Requirements

The College Council has made three important changes to regulatory requirements based on the College's goal of protecting the public through effective regulation of the profession; they reflect our commitment to the sustainability of the regulatory framework in recognition of the economic reality facing the profession at this time.

As we work together in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, the College continues to participate in daily update calls with the Ministry of Health and other health system partners so that we can provide you with current and accurate information that is relevant to the profession.

As the situation evolves and the Ontario government begins to implement its plan to slowly re-open the province, we will continue to keep Members informed of changes and regulatory requirements via e-mail updates, monthly *News Bulletins* and our [COVID-19 web page for NDs](#).

1. Registration Renewal Changes & Fee Reduction

As noted in our communication of April 29, 2020, the Council has reduced the fees for the current registration year by 40%, as well as adjusting the date by which payment must be

made and CPR recertification requirements.

Visit our [Registration Renewal webpage](#) for more detailed information about:

- the renewal fee payment deadline extension to September 30, 2020;
- how to apply for a refund to reflect the 40% reduction in registration fees if you have already paid them for 2020-21;
- the extension of the CPR renewal deadline to September 30, 2020; and
- how to access a temporary certificate of registration if you have completed your Information Return form but have not yet paid the renewal fee.

2. Inspection Program Fees

Council has modified the 30-day fee payment deadline for clinics currently working toward becoming certified for IVIT. To allow for flexibility, fees will be payable during the pandemic on a timeframe established by the Registrar. The Inspection Department will communicate directly with designated Members who have an inspection in process about the timeline for payment.

3. Entry-to-Practise Changes

The Council also approved several changes that apply to examinations and registration. Highlights include:

- Transition timing from NPLEX I to the new Ontario Biomedical Examination
 - The full transition has been delayed until May 15, 2021. The Ontario Biomedical Examination will still launch in November 2020 as anticipated. However, the College will continue to accept proof of successful completion of the NPLEX I exam, as one of the requisite exams for registration in Ontario, as long as it was completed before November 15, 2020.
- Should exam date changes be necessary, the College has reserved alternate dates. If an exam is postponed, new dates will be posted on the exam schedule web page for the specific exam. (Please see Deadlines & Reminders below for recent date changes.)
- In recognition that some applicants may experience challenges this year in obtaining the necessary documents to support their application for registration, we are providing some temporary, alternate options for criminal records checks, CPR certification and Public Register photos. These will be outlined in a guidance document, Applying for Registration During the COVID-19 Pandemic, to be available on our website as of May 31, 2020.

Other Programmatic Changes

In addition to the changes to the regulatory requirements made by the Council, changes have also been made to other programs to reflect the impact of COVID-19.

QA Self-Assessment

The deadline for completing the College's new Advertising Self-Assessment questionnaire has also been extended by the Quality Assurance Committee to September 30, 2020. [Access the](#)

Examination Changes

- New safeguards will be reflected in how College exams will run in light of COVID-19. These may include changes such as health screening, use of PPE during practical exam components, imposed exam registration caps and so on.
 - At the discretion of the Director of Registration and Examinations, the examination deferral fee of \$50 + HST may be waived, e.g., where the reason for a candidate's deferral is due to potential COVID-19 infection or recent exposure.
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REMINDER: Practising during the pandemic

- The Directive #2 put in place on March 19, 2020 by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) continues to remain in place. The Directive specified that all non-essential and elective services provided by professionals governed under *the Regulated Health Professions Act* (including naturopaths) should cease or be reduced to minimal levels. **Non-essential naturopathic services are not to be provided in person or by telepractice.**
 - Allowable exceptions can be made for time-sensitive circumstances to avert or avoid negative patient outcomes or to avert or avoid a situation that would have a direct impact on the safety of patients. This also applies to services provided by naturopaths using telepractice or other virtual tools.
 - The CMOH updated its Directive #1 on March 30, 2020 with specific guidelines for health providers about risk assessment, precautions and other requirements should it be essential that an in-person patient visit take place.
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NEW: Executive Committee Elections

At the April meeting of the Council, held virtually for the first time in the history of the College, the Council held its annual elections for the Officer positions which form the Council's Executive Committee. The following Council members were elected:

- Dr. Kim Bretz, ND, President
- Mr. Barry Sullivan, Vice President
- Mr. Samuel Laldin, Officer-at-Large Public Member
- Dr. Shelley Burns, ND, Officer-at-Large Professional Member
- Dr. Brenda Lessard-Rhead, ND (Inactive), Officer-at-Large Professional Member

In January 2016 at the first Executive Committee elections following proclamation of the Naturopathy Act, 2007, Dr. Tara Gignac, ND was elected as the Council's first President. She served three years as President and last year as an Officer-at-Large Professional Member on the Executive Committee. Dr. Tara Gignac, ND has served a total of four years on the Executive Committee and has done so with honour and distinction. She has shaped many of the activities of the College through her valuable participation on the Executive Committee for

which the College and the public owe a great debt of thanks. Although Dr. Gignac, ND is no longer a sitting member of the Executive Committee, she continues to serve as the Council member for District 6. We look forward to working with Dr. Gignac, ND in this capacity and thank her for her sacrifice and dedication to the work of the College on the Executive Committee.

NEW: Committee Appointments & Welcome Public Representatives

At its April meeting, Council approved [volunteer appointments to College committees for 2020-21](#). To our knowledge, we are the first health regulator in Ontario to now include public representatives (who are not appointed public members of Council) on College committees. The addition of four new volunteers will amplify the public's voice in regulation and help support the work of our committees.

FAQ



Stay Up-to-Date with COVID-19 FAQs for NDs

Information about COVID IgG antibody testing, mandatory reporting of COVID-19, telepractice and more.

[Read it here.](#)

Deadlines & Reminders



- **Exam cancellations**—These include the May 24, 2020 sitting of the **IVIT Exam**, the June 21, 2020 sitting of the **Ontario Prescribing & Therapeutics Exam** and the July 19, 2020 sitting of the **Ontario Clinical (Practical) Exam**.
- **Next Council meeting**—July 29, 2020. Council meetings are open to the public and Members. Advance registration is required by e-mailing us at general@collegeofnaturopaths.on.ca.

Practice



Resources

Standards & Guidelines spotlight

Now is a great time to read up on College [standards and guidelines](#), including those to do with *Infection Control*, *Telepractice*, *Therapeutic Relationships* and *Professional Boundaries*, *Managing Risk in Clinical Practice*.

Read our latest blog posts

- [National Volunteer Week!](#)
- [Online Reviews and Advertising](#)

Thank you! We appreciate the many e-mails from Members expressing their gratitude to the Council and College for the recent decisions surrounding fees. We truly are all in this together.

We also appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we implement the changes outlined in this bulletin. We also want to acknowledge the many other messages of support we have received from Members over the past two months during this COVID-19 crisis—they mean a lot to us.

The College continues to operate remotely. If you need to reach us, e-mail will be faster than by phone. Our website includes a [list of e-mails by department](#). Phone messages are being checked and returned as soon as possible.

College of Naturopaths of Ontario

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