

The Council of the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC) met for their regularly scheduled all-day council meeting at the College's office in Vancouver, BC on February 15th, 2008. The following Council Highlights summarize the key initiatives discussed at that meeting. For a complete and official recording of the council meeting please refer to the [draft council meeting minutes](#) posted on the College's website.

Key Initiatives Discussed

CE option to PDAP:

Following an update by the Registrar on the progress of the CE-Plus option and a lengthy discussion by council members it was concluded that PDAP would continue in its present format for all pharmacists currently in Phase I of the 2006 cycle, which ended on February 29, 2008. The official motion, which was moved and seconded by Council, read: *The continuing education option, as approved by Council, will be available to registrants in Phase II.*

This change means that those pharmacists who do not demonstrate that they meet the standard in Phase I will have a continuing education option, which is currently under development, as an additional choice in Phase II, which starts September 2008.

Council initially endorsed the addition of a continuing education option to PDAP at the September 2007 council meeting and at that time asked the Board of Examiners to develop the option. The Board of Examiners established a working group that held their first development workshop in early February with their next workshop scheduled for April 4th 2008.

The College will provide Council with an update of the working groups' progress at the April council meeting with a formal report, including written recommendations, scheduled for the June 2008 council meeting.

Medication Management:

The Registrar provided an update on the Medication Management Initiative outlining that further to Council approving *PPP-58 – Adapting a Prescription* at the Sept 2007 council meeting, the College, in partnership with the BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) struck a working group, consisting of the College Registrar, Deputy Registrar, BCPhA CEO and Deputy CEO to develop an orientation manual.

The working group had their initial meeting on Jan 10th, 2008 where they reviewed the workplan (which includes consultation sessions with major stakeholders), milestones, timeframes, processes, budgets and responsibilities. Council will be provided with a briefing note upon completion of the final draft of materials and pharmacist orientation sessions are expected to be held this Spring.

Regulated Pharmacy Technicians:

Following an update by the Registrar on the progress of the Regulated Pharmacy Technicians initiative a number of council members (many of whom are new to Council) expressed a desire to have additional information regarding the implementation procedures that other jurisdictions have undertaken when regulating technicians.

Although College staff, as part of the ongoing development of this initiative, will continue to seek out best practices, Council members were reminded that a significant amount of background research was initially done and is captured in the projects' 'white paper'.

eDrug / eHealth Project:

Special guest Lesley Preston, Project Manager eDrug presented a comprehensive update to council on the eDrug and eHealth initiative. The project team is currently working on their communication plan which will likely include a series of Roadshow events to pharmacists throughout BC as well as electronic video updates. The tentative timeline for this communication is the end of March 2008. Current [eDrug](#) and [eHealth](#) newsletters can be found on the College's website.

In addition, the Registrar announced that he has been appointed to the eHealth Strategy Council which oversees the development of the eHealth initiative for BC.

Transition to Health Professions Act (HPA):

The Deputy Registrar reported that the College has completed a mapping and gap analysis of the current and new (HPA) legislation with any changes incorporated into draft bylaws. The College is currently working with the Ministry to finalize the draft bylaws, once complete they will be presented to Council.

Teleconference with Minister Abbott:

President Gregory provided a brief summary of a teleconference call with Minister George Abbott, which included representatives from all regulated healthcare professions. The Minister, who began by outlining the current and future constraints on the healthcare system in British Columbia, called for all healthcare professionals to practice to the full extent of their skills and knowledge as a means to alleviate some of the strain on the system and improve patient care. As an example, the Minister mentioned the ability for pharmacists to authorize routine prescription renewals.

The College is currently working with the Ministry and other stakeholders to further define this exciting initiative.

Introduction of Communications Director:

President Gregory introduced Lori DeCou the College's new Communications Director. Lori has over 15 years experience as a communications professional with a focus on the development and execution of strategic communication initiatives which evolve organizations. Lori's contact information at the College is: (604) 676-4204 / lori.decou@bcpharmacists.org