Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board

The Apothecary is the newsletter of the Newfoundland & Labrador Pharmacy Board.
It contains information on a wide variety of topics intended to enhance the practice of all pharmacists in the province of Newfoundland & Labrador.
Pharmacists are responsible for reviewing any and all information contained within including documents which are made available on the NLPB website via links throughout the newsletter.
The Apothecary is now circulated electronically and is available in hard copy format only upon specific request.

The Apothecary

Spring 2014

The Changing Face of Pharmacy in Newfoundland and Labrador

When reviewing the information compiled annually by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, we begin to see a clearer picture of today's pharmacy practitioners. Past concerns of pharmacist shortages have been effectively addressed by an increased number of pharmacy graduates, resulting in the current robust workforce.

While only 675 of the 37,439 pharmacists in Canada are currently practicing in NL, our pharmacist workforce increased from 116 per 100,000 people in 2009 to 128 per 100,000 in 2012 and now we have ***the highest number of pharmacists per population in the country***.

The ***average age of practicing pharmacists*** in NL is ***42.3 years old***, younger than the Canadian average of 43.5.

7% of pharmacists in this province are 60 years of age and older.

26.8% are between 30 and 39 years old.

At 54.9%, ***NL has the third lowest percentage of female pharmacists in Canada***, after the Yukon (54.8%) and the Northwest Territories (50%)

As we work towards provincial regulation of Pharmacy Technicians , there are now ***more than 2700 pharmacy technicians*** registered and practicing across Canada.

Contest - Help Name Our e-Newsletter!

We are in the process of developing a new monthly e-newsletter and need help coming up with a catchy name. The e-newsletter will be used to communicate with the pharmacy community on a more regular basis on topics like frequently-asked-questions, upcoming events and deadlines, practice tips and more.

This newsletter belongs to you—help us name it!

Please submit your idea to:

inforx@nlpb.ca

by April 30, 2014 for consideration.

The lucky winner will receive a $25 Chapters gift card!

Demonstrating Commitment to Our Profession

Professionalism is defined as the behaviours, qualities, values and attitudes demonstrated by pharmacists and pharmacy students in all roles and practice settings. Professionalism implies a commitment.

Ethics are the foundation for professional behavior. The **NLPB Code of Ethics** reflects what the pharmacy profession stands for and reinforces what is unique about the contributions pharmacists make to patients, to society and to their profession. Ethics reflect the soul of each profession. Consistent ethical behavior creates a positive image of the individual that extends to the image of the profession. In contrast, the negative image created by unethical practices and decisions can diminish an individual's credibility and raise suspicion about the profession.

Pharmacists play a pivotal role in the continuum of health care. The responsibility that comes with being an essential health resource is significant. To retain the high level of trust and respect that is given to pharmacists by patients, the public and other health professionals, pharmacists must be both competent and professional in all they do. As professionals, pharmacists are challenged and expected to abide by a higher standard of conduct.

The Code of Ethics supports the Board in fulfilling its mandate to protect the public and serves as a benchmark for monitoring and addressing the conduct of pharmacists. It forms part of the law that governs the practice of pharmacy and the operation of pharmacies. The Code of Ethics must be read together with, and in the context of, the total legislative and regulatory framework including the *Pharmacy Act 2012*, the regulations, standards of practice and bylaws made under the Act, other provincial and federal legislation relating to drugs, and provincial and federal privacy legislation.

During the next 6 months, the Board will be undertaking a review of the Code of Ethics to ensure it reflects the coming changes in practice. Pharmacists will be given an opportunity to provide feedback during the process, helping NLPB to achieve its regulatory mandate and ensuring the values of the profession are reflected.

Margot Liddle

At the MUN School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony in January, I had the privilege of presenting the NLPB Code of Ethics to the first year pharmacy students, represented by Kelly Mitchelmore. During the ceremony, each student (Travis Coles pictured) signed the Code of Ethics to signify their commitment to the profession.

Board Happenings

New Staff Member Hired

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Noelle Hookey as Pharmacy Practice Advisor. Within the Board's Quality Assurance Program, previously announced in the **Summer 2013 issue** of The Apothecary, Noelle will be responsible for managing and conducting pharmacy site assessments.

With eight years of community practice experience in a variety of settings, Noelle is well-positioned to work with pharmacists to help ensure the profession is prepared for the expanding scopes of practice and opportunities ahead.

New Public Representative Appointed

Gerri Thompson has a long standing career in health care practice and executive administration. She is a graduate of both St. Clare's and Memorial University Schools of Nursing and holds a Master of Science from Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine. She has expertise in public health, policy development and evaluation working within the regional health care systems and as a senior consultant with the Department of Health and Community Services.

Gerri is active in her professional affiliations, volunteer associations and personal pursuits that include keeping fit, playing bridge and spending time with family and friends. Gerri and her husband, Mark, live in St. John's.

Recognition of Service, Dr. Linda Hensman

Dr. Linda Hensman completes her term as Dean at the MUN School of Pharmacy this month. With that, she also concludes her term on the NLPB Board.

Linda has served on the board for eight years, in a variety of capacities, including spending a term as Chair.

Current Board Chair, Christina Tulk (pictured (left) with Dr. Hensman) thanked Linda for her commitment to the Board and the profession and wished her the best of luck for the future.

Linda thanked the Board and Staff for a fabulous eight years and explained that it was not hard to volunteer when you love what you are doing.

We all look forward to seeing Linda's next accomplishment!

Recent Board Activities

Since the last issue of *The Apothecary*, the Board has approved a number of significant advancements in pharmacy practice. These decisions are key to moving the profession forward over the years to come and include:

- Approved and implemented new Standards for Prescription Labels and Dispensing Summaries
- Adopted the revised *NAPRA Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice* and *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice*
- Adopted the *NAPRA Supplemental Competencies on Injection*, an important step in bringing competency-based injection education and training programs to this province
- Approved an Implementation Timeline for revised Standards relating to the Methadone Maintenance Program. It is intended that the Board will be provided with a final draft in May 2014
- Approved an Implementation Timeline for a revised Code of Ethics. It is intended that the NLPB will launch this new Code of Ethics later in 2014
- Approved a revised Board Committee Structure to provide more focus on forwarding the Board's Goals and Objectives
- Discussed a first draft of Standards of Practice for the Administration of Injections by Pharmacists. This is an important step in being prepared to implement this new scope of practice when the Pharmacy Regulations are finalized by government

Retired Public Representative, Donald Mifflin, Passes Away

On February 21, 2014 Donald Mifflin passed away. He was appointed in 2005 as one of the first ministerial appointments of public representatives on the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board. He was subsequently twice re-appointed and completed his service to the Board only last Fall.

During his tenure, Don played an active role on the Board and served for a number of years as Chair of the Complaints Authorization Committee. From 2007 to 2008 he was Chair of the Board, quite an exceptional achievement for a public representative of a self-regulatory body.

Don's service to our profession was particularly vital in recent years when he was the only public representative serving on our Board, during which time he was also dealing with a very serious medical condition. At that particular time, many functions of our Board that require the participation of a public representative would have come to a halt, or have been delayed, if Don could not be present. Throughout that period, Don was determined to fulfill his commitment despite his personal difficulties. I feel that most members of our profession, and even our Board, would have been unaware of how valuable Don's determined commitment was to us during that period.

I mourn his loss, I remember the contribution that he made, and I regret that I never expressed my appreciation to him as much as I should have.

Don Rowe, Retired Secretary-Registrar

HEALTHe Newfoundland and Labrador

The HEALTHe NL Viewer is the most recent addition to the provincial electronic health record (EHR). It provides authorized health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and others, greater access to important patient information in the EHR. Today, this means greater access to medication information from pharmacies via the Pharmacy Network. Over time, it will bring in additional information, such as lab results and diagnostic images.

Authorized health professionals in Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) and community clinics are currently and increasingly using the HEALTHe NL Viewer to view medication profiles, pulled from the Pharmacy Network, in their daily practice.

Thanks to pharmacy professionals, more clinicians are able to view Pharmacy Network profiles and use that information to provide better patient care. As one clinician said, "Working with clients from all over the province and not always having access to their medications is a significant challenge. The Viewer will give me much more accurate information about the use of medications by my clients."

Again, we invite all pharmacies to connect to the Network to help make patient care safer. For more information on the HEALTHe NL viewer or the Pharmacy Network, please visit www.nlchi.nl.ca or contact the Centre at 752-6006 or 1-877-752-6006.

Expanded Scopes of Practice Update

Recently, questions have been raised regarding the timeline for implementation of expanded scopes of practice for pharmacists in this province. Before the NLPB can implement these expanded scopes, key components of provincial pharmacy legislation must first be developed and enabled:

1. *Pharmacy Act, 2012* - This act is now in place and enables the Minister of Health to make regulations regarding expanded scopes of practice.
2. *Pharmacy Regulations* - The Board is currently engaged with the Department of Health in the development of new pharmacy regulations to accompany the new Act. Once in place, these regulations will allow the Board to implement Standards of Practice regarding expanded scopes.
3. Standards of Practice - The Standards of Practice are currently being developed in anticipation of the regulations being approved by the Minister.
4. Code of Ethics - The Code of Ethics is an essential component that guides pharmacists' professional behavior. It is currently under review and will be revised within the next 6-9 months to better integrate the anticipated new role of pharmacists as well as the introduction of registered pharmacy technicians.

Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians

Professional Development Conference

The Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians (CAPT) is pleased to present the 2014 Professional Development Conference May 2-4, 2014 at the Hilton Hotel and Suites in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The CAPT conference is an annual national event which offers pharmacy technicians the opportunity to learn different scopes of practice, new techniques and new ideas in the profession with many of the sessions CCCEP accredited.

For complete details on the conference and to register go to www.capt.ca.

The Voice of Canadian Pharmacy Technicians for Over 25 Years

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The Apothecary

published quarterly by the
Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board
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