

Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board

November 19, 2020

Hon. Dr. John Haggie
MHA, Gander
Minister of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Minister Haggie,

Please see the attached report outlining the activities of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board during 2020 as well as the audited financial statements of the board for the financial year ending December 31, 2020.

Respectfully,



Dr. Chris Prior DC
Chair
Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board

Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board

2020 NLCB Annual Report

About the NLCB

The Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board (NLCB) is comprised of 6 chiropractors elected by the licensed chiropractors in NL, up to 3 appointed public members as well as a registrar as appointed by the board. In 2020, changes to the composition of the board occurred due to the retirement of Dr. Janice Grace from practice and non-renewal of license in 2020, and the notification by Dr. Keith Cassell of his desire to take a leave of absence from the board. As a result, on February 20, 2020 the NLCB appointed Dr. Carl Eustace to replace the board vacancy left by Dr. Grace's departure. On November 28, 2020 Dr. Eustace was elected to a 3 year term and Dr. Brianna Hynes was also elected to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Dr. Cassell. The NLCB is currently in the process of securing 2 public appointments to fill the current public member vacancies.

The members of the NLCB in 2020 were as follows.

Dr. Chris Prior, DC- Chair

Dr. Douglas White, DC- Treasurer

Dr. Laura Park, DC- Secretary

Dr. Janice Manning, DC- Member

Dr. Carl Eustace, DC- Member

Dr. Brianna Hynes, DC- Member

Vacant- Public Member

Ms. Wanda Cuff-Young- Public Member

Vacant- Public member

Dr. Darrell Wade, DC- Registrar

Mandate of the NLCB

Registration and License

The Registrar is responsible for receiving applications for licensure from qualified candidates, ensuring that the criteria for registration is met by all applicants, and ensuring that current registrants continue to meet the legislated qualifications for licensure on an annual basis. The Registrar is also responsible for keeping a current register of licensed members and professional chiropractic corporations in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Complaints

The registrar is responsible for fielding enquiries from the public regarding formal and informal complaints relating to the practice of chiropractic in NL. It is the duty of the registrar to resolve

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complaints within their discretion in the event that both the complainant and respondent are in agreement with this form of resolution. In the event that the registrar is unable to resolve the complaint satisfactorily at their level, the complaint may be referred to the complaints authorization committee. In 2020, the Registrar fielded 1 new allegation which was referred to the CAC and resulted in a suspension from practice pending further investigation. As a result, there are 2 active complaints ongoing in 2020.

Meetings of the Board

In 2020, the Members of the NLCB conducted meetings on February 20 and March 7 to discuss and address usual and recurring business of the NLCB. On March 16, 2020 the NLCB registrar issued correspondence to all licensed chiropractors in NL informing them of the need to practice extra precautions in relation to the emerging threat of COVID-19 in NL. In the days, weeks and months following this correspondence, the members of the NLCB met through virtual meetings and corresponded electronically frequently, at times daily, to coordinate the NLCB's response to the constantly evolving threat of COVID-19. As a result, the following initiatives were discussed and or implemented.

Suspension of non-essential services

On March 18, 2020, in consultation with my board and in consideration of increasing evidence of the risk associated with COVID-19, I issued a notice to all licensed chiropractors in NL to suspend all non-essential chiropractic services to the public. This essentially suspended clinic operations with the exception of the provision of services to patients that would experience a significant exacerbation of symptoms or experience significant deterioration of their condition in the absence of care. I also recommended the following:

- All non-essential clinic staff should remain home to prevent the potential for increased transmission.
- Clinics should not hold regular clinic hours where significant volumes of those who require care are present in proximity to other patients. Where a chiropractor is aware of multiple patients that require essential care on a given day, these patients should be scheduled with at least 15 minutes of time between the end of one appointment and the beginning of the next to allow for proper clinic disinfection and to create physical isolation measures where at all possible.

Deferral of license fees

In response to the significant financial pressures placed on individual chiropractors and clinics as a result of mandated restrictions on clinical services, the NLCB approved a deferral of licensing fees for the months of April, May and June. These measures were well received and the deferred fees associated with this initiatives are projected to be recovered by the end of 2021 closures.

Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies to chiropractors

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On April 25, 2020 the members of the NLCB approved a \$15,000 commitment to facilitate the provision of PPE for all licensed chiropractors in order to ensure that chiropractors had the necessary tools in order to protect themselves and their patients upon the resumption of full clinical services. With this commitment, the NLCB was able to source a sufficient supply of medical grade face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and surface disinfectant to allow every chiropractor to meet the requirements of the NLCB pandemic practice guide prior to the resumption of services. Over the course of the next 4 weeks, these supplies were disbursed to chiropractors throughout the province.

Pandemic Practice Guide

Throughout the months of April, May and June, the work of the NLCB largely consisted of constitution the NLCB pandemic practice guide to inform and direct chiropractors on necessary procedures and precautions related to Covid-19 with respect to the provision of clinical services that required frequent periods of close contact with patients. The development of this guide was in collaboration with other Canadian chiropractic regulators as well as locally in consultation with the Health Regulators Network (HRN). As new trends emerged over the course of 2020, this guide received periodic updates to reflect the evolution of the pandemic.

Evidence Based Practice

The NLCB remains committed to the promotion of evidence based principles to enhance both the safety and effectiveness of chiropractic care in order to benefit the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2020 The NLCB continued its support of the research project “ De-implementing low value care: a research program of the Choosing Wisely Canada Implementation Research Network”. The NLCB continues to provide input as needed into this project.

Federation of Canadian Chiropractic

In November 2019, the NLCB renewed its membership in the Federation of Canadian Chiropractic (FCC) which is a federation of all chiropractic regulators in Canada. In 2020 the FCC continued to complete work to update the professions Code of Ethics including addressing issues related to evidence based care and road map to care, advertising, clinical competence, substance use disorders and public health. Representatives from the NLCB continue to participate in national forums of regulators to discuss issues of importance to chiropractic regulation in Canada. In 2020, through consultations with other chiropractic regulators, The NLCB implemented policies relating to Telehealth as well as the publishing of the pandemic practice guideline which outlined the requirements for chiropractors, staff and the clinical environment more generally in order to ensure the safe delivery of care.

The NLCB continues to receive periodic enquiries under the policy for international applicants that would result in a possible exemption from the sitting of Part A of the CCEB competency examination. The policy continues to serve as a means to reduce barriers for entry to practice for experienced chiropractors

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who have previously practised in regulated jurisdictions outside of Canada for a duration of greater than 2 years.

Regulations and Bylaws

The members of the NLCB continue to work with the Department of Health and Community services regarding regulations that require updating in relation to changes to the Chiropractors Act in 2009. Members of the board also continue to engage in the process of updating policies and bylaws to coincide with the expected regulatory updates.

Membership

As of December 31, 2020 the register of the NLCB consisted of 71 licensed chiropractors . The NLCB corporate register consists of 25 PCC's as of December 31st, 2020.

Fiscal Position of the Board

The NLCB continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner with sufficient financial assets to discharge its legislative duties with respect to the regulation of the practice of chiropractic in Newfoundland and Labrador as noted in the 2020 audited financials. The board will continue to monitor licensing fees and make adjustments as appropriate to reflect the financial need of the board in the discharge of its legislated duties.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Chris Prior DC
Chair
Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board
