

2021-22 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 and a registrar as appointed by the board. In 2021 there were no changes to the composition of the board due to the re-election of Dr. Chris Prior, Dr. Doug White and Dr. Laura Park. This resulted in the board being constituted as follows as of December 31, 2021

Dr. Chris Prior, DC- Chair

Dr. Douglas White, DC- Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Laura Park, DC- Member

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

There have been no additional changes to the composition of the board in 2022 and with no expiring terms in 2022, an election will not be required. The NLCB continues to seek the addition of 2 public appointments to fill the current public member vacancies.

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 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 2021 the Registrar fielded no new allegations and resolved one complaint satisfactorily by way of Alternative Dispute resolution. One complaint remained active from a previous allegation during 2021 and was heard in 2022 by an adjudication tribunal at which the Board and the respondent submitted an agreed statement

of facts as well as an admission by the respondent to the charges outlined in the agreed statement. As a result, the respondent was reprimanded which included an order to pay costs to the board in the amount of \$20,000. This amount is reflected in the NLCB financials as “other income”.

Activities of the Board

I am pleased to report that leading up to and during 2022 the board has been working on a number of important initiatives. These include:

Federation of Canadian Chiropractic (FCC)

During 2021 and 2022, the NLCB Registrar chaired the National Code of Ethics working group under the regulatory council of the FCC. This group was tasked with reviewing the Code of Ethics of each provincial jurisdiction in Canada, the Code of Ethics of the Canadian Chiropractic Association, as well as the Code of Ethics of other national professional organizations.

As a result, the reference document “Guiding Principles of Ethics for Canadian Chiropractors” was developed and presented to the FCC board for adoption. It is anticipated that this document will be adopted at the April 2023 FCC AGM.

In addition, the NLCB registrar is currently chairing the FCC Cultural Safety Working Group which has been tasked with exploring issues surrounding the profession of chiropractic and indigenous cultural safety. To date the group has conducted a survey of provincial chiropractic regulators and is in the process of engaging chiropractic leaders who identify as indigenous to better inform next steps. In 2022 and beyond, the NLCB remains committed to participation in national forums of regulators to discuss issues of importance to chiropractic regulation in Canada.

Policies

Since the last NLCB AGM, members of the board have expended considerable effort in order to identify gaps in current policies and guidelines in order to inform the revision of current policies as well as the development of new policies and guidelines to address policy gaps that may exist. As a result, the Board has developed the following policies:

NLCB Policy on Sexual Impropriety-SI01- A Policy Regarding the Requirements of Doctors of Chiropractic to Maintain Appropriate Professional Boundaries with Respect to Patients

NLCB Policy on Treatment of Family Members-TFM-01- A Policy Regarding the Requirements of Doctors of Chiropractic with Respect to the Treatment of Family Members

These policies have an effective date of December 3, 2022 and can be found at <https://nlcb.ca/standards-and-legislations/policies-and-guidelines/>.

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, 2021 the register of the NLCB consisted of 71 licensed chiropractors. As of December 3, 2022 the NLCB register consists of 75 licensed members. This is the result of the addition of 4 new members during 2022. The NLCB corporate register consisted of 23 PCC's as of December 31st, 2021.

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 2021 audited financial statements. As outlined in the 2022 NLCB treasurers report, 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
