

## ***2023-24 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 2023 there were no changes to the composition of the board however with expiring terms for members Dr. Carl Eustace, Dr. Brianna Hynes and Dr. Janice Manning, an election was held and these members were once again confirmed for a 3 year term. This resulted in the board being constituted as follows as of December 31, 2023

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 to date in 2024 however with the terms of Dr. Chris Prior, Dr. Doug White and Dr. Laura Park expiring in 2024, an election will be required to fill these positions. 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. Since the 2023 NLCB AGM, the registrar fielded 1 new allegation. This resulted in a referral to the Complaints

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authorization committee and a directive to the Registrar to obtain further details and a formal response from the registrant. No disciplinary action has resulted to date from this allegation. In 2023, the NLCB registrar continued to work with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary regarding an investigation into a complaint involving an individual, who was not licensed with the NLCB, representing themselves to the public as a chiropractor.

## **Activities of the Board**

I am pleased to report that leading up to and during 2023-24 the board has been working on a number of important initiatives. These include:

### **Federation of Canadian Chiropractic (FCC)**

During 2023 and 2024, the NLCB remained an active participant in the Federation of Canadian Chiropractic. The NLCB registrar currently sits as the Chair of the Regulatory Council of the FCC and as a result also sits as a member of the FCC executive.

In 2023/24 the FCC regulatory council conducted work on a number of priority areas including the signing of a formal agreement with Innovation 7 to create a plan towards strengthening Truth and Reconciliation efforts within chiropractic regulatory frameworks in Canada. Work has also continued on establishing a more harmonized approach to licensing and regulatory standards including a uniform letter of standing to be used in all Canadian jurisdictions to facilitate improved labour mobility. Additional consultations both within Canada as well as internationally continue to evolve in the areas of entry to practice standards, standards for chiropractic educational institutions and establishing a specialist competency framework.

## **Education and Training**

In 2023-24, the NLCB continued to work with external groups including the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in an effort to ensure that Chiropractors in NL remain current in practice and are knowledgeable of updates to standards of practice. As a result, Chiropractors have received or are currently participating in educational opportunities that relate to X-ray and advanced imaging of the spine and peripheral joints/muscles as well as the essentials of laboratory diagnosis for chiropractors as primary care providers. These programs have been developed in partnership with chiropractic regulators in NS, NB and PEI and reflect the NLCBS commitment to public safety by ensuring chiropractors remain current in key areas of their training and scope.

## **Regulations and Bylaws**

The members of the NLCB continue to work with the Department of Health and Community Services regarding necessary updates to regulations as well as the Chiropractors Act, 2009. In 2023-24, members of the NLCB were engaged in frequent discussions with department staff regarding the requirement to allow the scope of practice of chiropractors to reflect the scope of their training. This will require the removal of outdated language in the chiropractors act and regulations that present barriers to chiropractors

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practicing to their full scope of training and providing comprehensive primary care to the residents of NL. It is anticipated that these discussions will continue into 2025 with the aim of introducing changes to the chiropractors act and regulations in early 2025.

### **Licensed Chiropractors in NL**

As of December 31, 2023, the register of the NLCB consisted of 75 licensed chiropractors. As of November 15, 2024 the NLCB register consists of 78 licensed chiropractors. This is the result of the addition of 5 new chiropractors during 2024, the relocation and non renewal of 2 chiropractors, and the retirement of 1 chiropractor. The NLCB corporate register consisted of 22 PCC's as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### **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 2023 audited financial statements.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Prior', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Chris Prior DC  
Chair  
Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board

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