

Becoming involved in Council

Council's Role in Public Protection

The governing body of a health professions regulatory college is known as a council.

A council is accountable to the Minister of Health (the Minister) and has a fiduciary duty to operate in good faith and carry out its activities in a manner that serves and protects the public interest.

Council conducts the business and affairs of the College in a transparent, objective, impartial manner. It makes decisions to establish and enforce regulations, by – laws, policies, and programs that protect the public interest, as outlined in the Pharmaceutical Act of Manitoba, (the Act). These policies and programs:

- set education and other entry-to-practice and licence requirements for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies;
- set professional and ethical standards of practice for the profession of pharmacy;
- set quality assurance programs to ensure the continuing competence of pharmacists; and
- ensure the College is able to receive complaints, conduct investigations, and take appropriate disciplinary action when required.

Elected and appointed individuals contribute by bringing their own unique set of knowledge, skill and experience to the role of council member. Council involvement provides individuals with rewarding opportunities to participate in both public protection and the continuing development of health care professions.

Council Composition

The Council of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba is composed of fifteen members: eight (8) pharmacists who are licenced to practice pharmacy in the province, five (5) public representatives appointed by the Minister, the immediate past president of Council, and the Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba (or the Dean's designate).

There are two electoral districts: District 1 is the urban area within the City of Winnipeg; District 2 is the rural area outside the City of Winnipeg. Elections take place every two years. Four individuals, who are pharmacists holding a current pharmacist license with the CPhM, are elected from each electoral district.

Council Member Skills and Knowledge

All members of Council are expected to be effective contributors. The desired skills and background include:

Desired Criteria

- Commitment and willingness to uphold the public interest mandate of the College
- Understanding of the principles of regulation in the public interest and ability to make decisions in the public interest
- Willingness to learn about regulation and governance and a commitment to participating in orientation and on-going education.

- High standards of ethics and integrity
- Strong interpersonal communication
- Critical thinking skills
- Commitment to preparing for and attending Council meetings as per the annual schedule
- Participation on statutory and standing committees and other working groups, as required
- Open-mindedness
- Commitment to uphold the concept of “council speaking with one voice” once decisions are made
- Commitment to serve a term as appointed or elected, typically a term of two (2) or three (3) years

Desired Skills and Requirements

- Understanding of good governance and working within council and committee structures
- Previous board or senior leadership experience is an asset
- Access to, and competence in the use of, a device, the internet, and an email account.
- Access to computer and internet service.
- Willingness to submit a criminal record check, if requested

Council members should be aware of *the Pharmaceutical Act*, the regulations and by – laws, as well as various other provincial and federal legislation which form the regulatory framework for pharmacy practice in Manitoba.

Exclusionary Criteria

Members of Council must not have a conflict of interest that would interfere (or could be perceived to interfere) with the duty to regulate and govern in the public interest. An individual who is an employee, board, or council member of a union or professional advocacy group, or who is a recent employee of the College may be perceived to have a conflict of interest.

Council members, both appointed and elected, come from all segments of the Manitoba population, including members of Indigenous communities and visible minorities. However, it is stressed that Council members do not represent specific interests, communities, or constituents.

Term of Office

Each elected Council member serves for a two – year term. Elected Council members may serve consecutive terms. The immediate past president serves an additional two-year term.

Appointed Council members serve for the term, as determined by the Minister.

Annual Time Commitment

General meetings of Council are held five times a year (February, May, June, September, December). Meetings are typically held on a weekday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Council members also attend topic – specific meetings from time to time as well as other planning and education events.

In addition to attending Council meetings, Council members may serve on statutory or standing committees of the College. The number of committee meetings per year varies according to committee workload.

Council members also spend time preparing for meetings.

Meetings

Council meetings are held by video conference or in-person at the College office, 200 Taché Avenue, Winnipeg. All individuals on Council must have access to a computer equipped with a webcam and audio capabilities and facilitate their own attendance by video conference .

Council Orientation

Council members receive orientation regarding the role, mandate and governance framework of the College; as well, there are other opportunities for Council members to participate in learning sessions which address the fundamentals of governance, professional regulation, and the roles and responsibilities of Council.

Council Member Reimbursement

Council members are eligible to receive remuneration for time while engaged in Council and some committee meetings in accordance with College By – Law Schedule D. As well, Council members are reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the course of attending meetings according to College policy.