



Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network Annual Report, June 2019

The 2019 Annual Report of The Network is a summary of its activities and accomplishments since our 2018 Annual General Meeting. Our 22 Network members are described on our webpage <http://www.nsrhpn.ca/member-listing>. *The Regulated Health Professions Network Act* proclaimed describes both the purpose and the duties of The Network.

Purpose of Network

The purpose of the Network is to foster and enable collaboration among regulated health professions in a manner that upholds and protects the public interest, through enhanced regulation by the health professions.

Duties of Network

In pursuing its purpose and in accordance with the guiding principles of this *Act*, the Network shall:

- (a) be a forum to share resources, information, trends and issues among the regulated health professions and others;
- (b) promote best practices in health-profession regulation while preserving the regulatory autonomy of each regulated health profession;
- (c) enable Network members to build capacity for their regulatory functions by facilitating collaboration with other Network members and other bodies;
- (d) provide a single point of contact for discussion and consultation with government and others on matters that may impact the regulation of health professions;
- (e) facilitate the development of strategies and approaches that will enable Network members to respond individually and collectively to regulatory challenges and opportunities;
- (f) provide information to other bodies that will facilitate improvements in health-care delivery or regulation;
- (g) encourage voluntary collaboration among Network members for any purpose that serves the public interest;
- (h) develop voluntary collaborative regulatory processes to allow Network members to address
 - (i) matters relating to scopes of practice that arise among regulated health professions,
 - (ii) collaborative investigative processes,
 - (iii) collaborative registration review processes, and
 - (iv) such other collaborative regulatory processes as are set out in the regulations.

Sharing Resources, Information, Trends and Issues

The Network Council welcomed new member representatives as some member representatives retired and other member organizations have new leadership. Their perspectives on collaborative health care regulation will be invaluable to serving our purpose and fulfilling our duties.

Our Network continues to mature since its inception in 2013. An evaluation report of the Network was submitted to the Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Health and Wellness.

Network members have compiled resources for sharing to support building capacity in regulatory functions. These resources, many of which were developed from member working groups, are categorized as follows:

- Assignment and Delegation
- Collaborative Investigations
- Criminal Record Checks
- Licensing Examination Accommodation
- Regulation Research
- Scopes of Practice
- Social Media

The Network has been active in leading discussions among its members and other stakeholder organizations on issues and trends important to health regulators in Nova Scotia including:

- Medical Assistance in Dying
- Cannabis Legalization
- Multi-jurisdictional Practice
- Standards of Good Regulation for Regulators

The work of the Network is made possible by tremendous in-kind contribution of members, and this is not reflected in the financial documents. Council members volunteered hundreds of hours of time participating in Network business meetings and working groups. Additionally, meeting space is provided without charge for these meetings.

The 2019 Executive Committee membership was:

- Sue Smith Nova Scotia College of Nurses
- Bev Zwicker Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
- Alec Stratford Nova Scotia College of Social Workers
- Janice Jones Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists
- Julie Avery Nova Scotia Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
- Martin Gillis Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia
- Bruce Holmes (ex-officio) Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network

The 2019 Audit Committee membership was:

- Stacy Bryan College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia
- Karl Kowalczyk College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia
- Colleen Arnold, CPA, CMA (external) College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia
- Susan Pike, CPA, CGA (external) Nova Scotia Community College
- Edith Mosher (ex-officio) Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network
- Bruce Holmes (ex-officio) Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network

The 2019 Nomination Committee membership was:

- Bev Zwicker Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
- Alec Stratford Nova Scotia College of Social Workers
- Janice Jones Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists
- Julie Avery Nova Scotia Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
- Martin Gillis Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia
- Jennifer Garus Nova Scotia Dietetic Association
- Bruce Holmes (ex-officio) Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network

The Network continues to nurture good governance and has developed a Network Membership Policy and a Network Reserve Fund policy.

Our web pages, www.nsrhpn.ca, continue as a forum for sharing on issues pertaining to regulated health professions among a wider audience. It includes resources for regulators and the public on topics relevant to health profession regulation in Nova Scotia. The Network has a presence on social media including as Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook that focuses on issues pertinent to collaborative regulation.

Network Affiliations

The Network is a member of CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation; <http://www.clearhq.org>) and CNAR (Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation; <http://www.cnnar.ca>). Both of these organizations provide international and national perspectives on regulation and offer the opportunity to share resources. The Network participates on the Nova Scotia Academic Health Council, and committees of the Fair Registration Review Practices Office, SimEd Network, and Inter-professional Education Community Engagement at Dalhousie University.

The Future

Recognizing that, “Great things happen when organizations work together”, the Network Council engaged the services of Independent Facilitation Services (Mr. Wayne Marsh) to facilitate strategic discussions for the Network. Our strategic priority for 2019-2021 is to “Establish processes of public accountability for health profession regulators”.

The Network is continuing its collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness and anticipating a new agreement for the period of April 2019 to March 2021. With a shared focus of the public's best health interest we value their participation at our Council meetings.