



Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network Annual Report, June 2020

The 2020 Annual Report of The Network is a summary of its activities and accomplishments since our 2019 Annual General Meeting. Our governing Council consists of representatives from our 22 Network members.

Member Representatives (Voting)	
College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Cindy Wheeler, Registrar	Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists Janice Jones, Executive Director/Registrar
College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia Stacy Bryan, Registrar/CAO	Nova Scotia College of Nursing Sue Smith, CEO & Registrar
College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia Kevin Wong, Registrar	Nova Scotia College of Optometrists Carl Davis, Past Chair
College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia Karl Kowalczyk, Executive Director/Registrar	Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists Bev Zwicker CEO & Registrar
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia D.A. (Gus) Grant, Registrar/CEO	Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists Joan Ross, Registrar
Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia Maureen Hope, Registrar	Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists Tara Planetta, Registrar
Nova Scotia Association of Medical Radiation Technologists Julie Avery, Executive Director/Registrar	Nova Scotia College of Social Workers Alec Stratford, Executive Director/Registrar
Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology Gordon Butler, Registrar	Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association Christian Hall, President
Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists Matthew Lafond, Interim Registrar	Nova Scotia Dietetic Association Jennifer Hemeon, Executive Manager
Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors Janis Noseworthy, Registrar	Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia Jenny Wright, Registrar/Executive Director
Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians Brigitte MacInnes, Registrar	Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia Martin Gillis, Registrar
Member Representatives (Non-Voting)	
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness Cindy Cruikshank, Director of Health Workforce Polices and Programs	Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network Bruce Holmes, Executive Director

The purpose of the Network, prescribed in *The Regulated Health Professions Network Act* (<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/regulated%20health%20professions%20network.pdf>), 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”. The *Act* describes the duties of the Network to:

- (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.

The Network Council welcomed the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (NSCASLP) and the Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) as our newest members. In June 2020, the NSCN is celebrating their one-year milestone of becoming the sole nursing regulator in Nova Scotia (formerly the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia and the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia). New member representatives bring fresh perspectives on collaborative health care regulation that is invaluable to serving our purpose and fulfilling our duties.

Strategic Directions for 2019-2021

Our work plan included activities to support our 2019-2021 Strategic Goals, as well as those that strengthen the Network’s performance in its core duties.

1. **Goal (2019-2021): To enhance public accountability of health profession regulators.**
 The Network established two working groups to explore what the public wants to know from health regulators. Members were consulted and a literature review was undertaken and presented to Council. To date, the working groups have developed a draft document on what regulators ought to include about their registrants on their public registry as well as a draft document on standards of good regulation. Work on these documents will continue through 2020-2021, informed by public consultations planned for the coming year.

2. **Goal (2019-2021): To collaborate in a manner that upholds and protects the public interest.**
 The Network offered a workshop for Network members on Board governance. More than 50 participants attended the workshop, “Preserving the Privilege of Self-Regulations Through Effective Regulation and Governance” presented by Deanna Williams of Dundee Consulting Group. Ltd. Feedback was very positive indicating that an annual event would be desirable, perhaps a virtual education session in the fall. A literature will be undertaken to review the best regulatory practices in assuring ongoing competence of registrants.

3. Operational (ongoing deliverables arising from the Act): Build engagement among members to foster and enable collaboration.

COVID-19 became a dominant issue for the Network and its member organizations in March 2020. The Network responded by distributing regular, frequent updates on matters pertinent to health regulators. Additional virtual meetings of the Council were held for members to share issues and learnings as they were experienced and responded to COVID-19.

The Network was active in facilitating discussions among its members and other stakeholder organizations in 2019-2020 on issues and trends important to health regulators in Nova Scotia including Medical Assistance in Dying, Cannabis Legalization, Multi-jurisdictional Practice. These discussion and meetings were a forum for participants to remain current and offer feedback to one another.

The Network maintained its web presence, www.nsrhpn.ca, 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 monitored its social media including Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook on relevant issues pertinent to collaborative health regulation.

The work of the Network is made possible by tremendous in-kind contribution of members. Council members continue to volunteer hundreds of hours of time participating in Network business meetings and working groups.

Governance

The Network Executive Committee (2019-2020) is:

Bev Zwicker	Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists	Chair
Bruce Holmes	Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network	Ex-officio
Janice Jones	Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists	Member-at-Large
Jennifer Hemeon	Nova Scotia Dietetic Association	Member-at-Large
Julie Avery	Nova Scotia Association of Medical Radiation Technologists	Smaller Member Representative
Martin Gillis	Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia	Larger Member Representative

The 2020 Audit Committee membership was:

Bruce Holmes	Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network	Ex-officio, NSRHPN
Edith Mosher	Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network	Ex-officio, NSRHPN
Colleen Arnold, CPA, CMA	Nova Scotia College of Nursing	External
Karl Kowalczyk	College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia	NSRHPN
Susan Pike, CPA, CGA	Nova Scotia Community College	External
Stacy Bryan	College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia	NSRHPN

The 2020 Nomination Committee membership is:

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

External Membership and Collaboration

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 in committees of the Fair Registration Review Practices Office, and Inter-professional Education Community Engagement at Dalhousie University. The Network renewed its collaboration agreement with the Department of Health and Wellness. With a shared focus of the public's best health interest we value their participation at our Council meetings.