

MINUTES
Alberta College of Pharmacy
Special Videoconference Meeting of the Council
September 18, 2020

1. Call to Order

President Dana Lyons called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Registrar Eberhart called the roll call and confirmed the attendance of the following council members. A quorum of council was declared.

- District 1 - Peter Macek(President-Elect)
- District 2 - Patrick Zachar
- District 3 - Fayaz Rajabali (Past-President)
- District 3 - Craig MacAlpine
- District 4 - Stan Dyjur
- District 5 - Judi Parrott
- District 5 - Shereen Elsayad
- District A - Don Ridley
- District B - Dana Lyons (President)
- Public Member - Christine Maligec
- Public Member - Carmen Wyton

Non-Voting

- Ex-Officio Member - Neal Davies, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy
- Ex-Officio Member - Terra Young, Representative, Accredited Pharmacy Technician Colleges in Alberta
- Ex-Officio Member - Navjot Singh, Student Representative, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Absent:

- Public Member – Irene Pfeiffer (Executive-Member-at-Large)

Also in attendance:

- Greg Eberhart - Registrar
- Kaye Moran - Deputy Registrar
- Jeff Whissell - Deputy Registrar
- Leslie Ainslie - Executive Assistant
- Barry Strader - Communications Director

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda as circulated.

Moved by **Christine Maligec**/Seconded by **Judi Parrott**/CARRIED

4. **Role Statement for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Animal Health**

Pharmacy's role of compounding and dispensing for animal health has relied upon pharmacists' or pharmacy technicians' expertise in adhering to legislative frameworks pertaining to the distribution of drugs, and their knowledge of pharmaceuticals for compounding drugs that may not be available for animal use. Pharmacists' role in animal health is directly connected to their role in human health when providing care; where the pharmacist ensures the animal's owner is able to safely use the drug therapy as prescribed, and that the public is safe from any adverse impacts of drug use in the animal(s).

Council reviewed an amended "Role Statement for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians" having reflected on feedback from stakeholders. It is recognized and accepted that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians lack knowledge in sciences that are specific to animal health. The amended role statement clarifies that pharmacists' role in animal health is not a common practice and is not equivalent to their role in human health. In most cases, the role in animal health has been to provide access to drug therapy for companion animals only. Council approved the amended role statement; however, requested that administration review clauses assigned to pharmacists that may also be relevant to pharmacy technicians.

MOTION: to approve the role statements for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in animal health as amended.

Moved by **Christine Maligec**/Seconded by **Fayaz Rajabali**/CARRIED

5. **Legislative Amendments to Authorize Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Role in Animal Health**

Pharmacists have historically compounded and dispensed drugs for animal health. This was specifically authorized under the former *Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act*, and its successor the *Pharmaceutical Profession Act*. The Health Professions Act (HPA) does not explicitly recognize a role for pharmacy in animal health. Further, Part 7.1 of the *Government Organization Act* recognizes "patients" as "persons" and the *Veterinary Medical Profession Act* restricts the prescribing, compounding, dispensing, and sale of drugs for animals to veterinarians. In June 2020, ACP submitted a comprehensive proposal for legislative and regulatory amendments to Alberta Health to fill this gap. The amendments authorize roles for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in animal health and support the College in its role of governing and regulating these practices. Many barriers limit the likelihood of that proposal being accepted.

Council reviewed a privileged briefing document from Bill Shores, ACP legal counsel with an analysis of the engagement with government and external parties to date. Mr. Shores recommended submitting a revised legislative proposal to government that authorizes pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to provide services to animals under schedule 19 of the HPA, with greater clarity about this authority to be addressed in the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technician Profession Regulation.

MOTION: to support the amended legislative proposal to authorize pharmacists' and pharmacy technicians' role in animal health as presented.

Moved by **Stan Dyjur**/Seconded by **Christine Maligec**/CARRIED

6. Proposed Amendments to the Pharmacy and Drug Act (PDA)

Council reviewed proposed amendments to the PDA. The first substantive amendments proposed addresses proprietors under Section 5.01 where wording will mirror language that is applicable to licensees, requiring that they must meet the requirements set out in the regulations. The second substantive amendment is under Section 27.2, which is to introduce pharmacy technicians in reciprocal agreements, an oversight at the time when pharmacy technicians became regulated health professionals. The third substantive amendment is to bylaw making authority. It proposes amendment to the bylaw making authority in the PDA to make it consistent with that in the *Health Professions Act* with respect to establishing fees.

Council also considered amendments that were proposed after further reflection of the government's discussion paper about amending the *Health Professions Act* that support "red-tape reduction", proposing the movement of many authorities requiring regulation to bylaws or standards of practice. Council asked about additional amendments to Section 5.01 by including that a proprietor must also meet the requirements set out in the standards of practice and Code of Ethics; to bring clarity in advance to the role and responsibility of proprietors. Registrar Eberhart will confer with legal counsel about incorporating these recommendations in Section 5.01.

MOTION: to approve the proposed amendments to the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* as proposed, subject to legal review of the additional amendment proposed to Section 5.01.
Moved by **Christine Maligec**/Seconded by **Craig MacAlpine**/CARRIED

7. Adjournment

MOTION: that the meeting be adjourned circa 9:29 a.m.
Moved by **Christine Maligec**