

December 2018

Message from College of Paramedics Council President – Dr. John Wade

I am pleased to be sending this first message to you in my capacity of Council President with the College of Paramedics of Manitoba!

The creation of the College of Paramedics of Manitoba is an important milestone in the history of Paramedicine in the Province of Manitoba and I am privileged to have been selected as the first Council President of the College.

I would like to thank the hard work and efforts of Mr. Reg Toews. As some of you may know, Mr. Toews was commissioned by the Government of Manitoba to establish the College of Paramedics of Manitoba, establish the Transition Council for the College, and to lead the recruitment efforts for the Executive Director position. Mr. Toews last day of work as part of his contract was September 30, 2018 and we are indebted to the leadership he provided in this inaugural period.

In addition to myself, the Transition Council Members are:

Paramedic Members: Brenna Eastman (*EMS Quality Officer Northern Regional Health Authority*), Bryan Jacobsen (*EMS Educator Prairie Mountain Health*), Cam Ritzer (*EMS Clinical Supervisor/EMS Regional Manager, Northern Regional Health Authority*), Christine Greer (*Emergency Medical Dispatcher with MTCC*), Karen Martin (*Community Paramedic with Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service*), Leah Braun (*EMS Superintendent with Southern Health-Sante Sud*), Marilyn McNeil (*Paramedic with Interlake Eastern EMS*), Ryan Youngson (*Firefighter Paramedic with Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service*), Sarah Peto (*Firefighter Paramedic with Brandon Fire and Emergency Services*), and Tom Wallace (*Deputy Chief of Support Services with Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service*).

Public Members: David Driedger (*CEO Haven-Group, the HavenGroup Foundation and Steinbach Housing*), Jean Cox (*Consultant and former ADM Health*), Jeff McConnell (*Lawyer and former Mayor of Virden, Manitoba*), and Madeleine Baril (*retired Registered Nurse and Health Care Administrator*).

Since being appointed to office, the Transition Council members assisted with the development of the Scope of Practice statement for Paramedics; draft General Regulations as required under the Regional Health Professions Act; a draft Code of Ethics; draft Standards of Practice; and draft College Bylaws. I am also pleased to announce that the Council Vice-President is Tom Wallace and the Council Treasurer is Brenna Eastman. I know Tom and Brenna will be very busy over the next several months creating committees to support governance and finance matters.

Thank you also to Mr. Eric Glass, Administrative Director with the Paramedics Association of Manitoba. Eric's knowledge of Paramedicine, his vision of seeing Paramedicine recognized as a Profession, and his advocacy for self-regulation have all helped the College become what it is today.

A selection committee was formed with the task of recruiting and hiring the Executive Director/Registrar for the College. The successful candidate was Trish Bergal and Trish began her employment with the College on August 27, 2018.

Message from the Executive Director/Registrar of the College of Paramedics of Manitoba – Trish Bergal

I am honored to serve as the first Executive Director/Registrar for the College of Paramedics of Manitoba. Since my first day of work it has been a busy time indeed. These early days of the College are fundamental in nature but incredibly important in terms of building a foundation and framework for the College as it becomes operational.

I would like to begin with a thank you to the Acting Executive Director of MHSAL Health Emergency Management, Corene Debrueil, and the staff of the MHSAL Health Emergency Management program, located at 1680 Ellice Avenue in Winnipeg, for welcoming me to share their work-place on a temporary basis. Their knowledge of licensing matters and their welcoming smiles has been much appreciated!

A little bit about me: I am a Registered Nurse with 36 years of experience in health care and a Masters Degree in Nursing from the University of Manitoba. My direct care clinical experience was in medical-surgical and Intensive Care units at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) in Winnipeg. My leadership experience includes Clinical Manager and Program Director responsibilities at HSC (Medicine program and Adult Emergency program), Nursing Program Director responsibility with the WRHA Emergency Program team; and for 16 years, WRHA Director of Patient Access and Transition. I hold a Fellowship from the EXTRA program, sponsored by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, and a CHE designation from the College of Health Care Leaders. I am currently Council (Board) Chair of the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba and also a Board member with the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division. Other recent volunteer commitments include serving as a medical volunteer with the Paralympics in Rio, Brazil; medical volunteer with Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg; medical volunteer at the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea and in a few short days, volunteering with the IIHF World Junior Hockey tournament in Vancouver, B.C.!

I am pleased to announce that the College has hired an Executive Assistant, Mrs. Bailey Campbell. Bailey will also share space with us at 1680 Ellice Avenue.

Ongoing communication is vital to our success. We look forward to sending regular newsletter updates. A website is under development! In the meantime, we are appreciative of the MHSAL EMS Branch for their assistance in sending this message to all of you! In January 2019 our email contact information will be set up and we will be able to receive messages and inquiries.

Some of the key milestones achieved since August are outlined in this newsletter. There is a significant amount of information to share over the next year and future newsletters will address the many important aspects involved in becoming operational under the Regulated Health Professions Act. I am committed to creating a regulatory College, that in its mandate to protect the public interest, reflects the pride and commitment that Paramedics have in the important role they play in the Manitoba health care system. I look forward to serving on behalf of all practicing Paramedics and most importantly, on behalf of all Manitobans.

College of Paramedics of Manitoba Milestones – September to November 2018

REGULATION

- * College of Paramedics established June 1, 2018
- * Scope of Practice Statement for Paramedics created
- * Draft General Regulations; Code of Ethics; Standards of Practice; College By-Laws provided to Deputy Minister Health August 31, 2018
- * Revisions to draft documents (ongoing)
- * Presentation to Manitoba Clinical Leadership Council on draft Reserved Acts November 15, 2018
- * Observer status granted as member of College of Paramedics of Manitoba, with Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR)
- * Attended first meeting as member Red River College Paramedicine Advisory Committee

COLLEGE INFRASTRUCTURE

- * Transition funding support received from Manitoba Government with expectation that College is fully operational on or before April 1, 2020
- * Established financial reporting strategy with Shared Health Manitoba, who provide interim financial management support to the College
- * Human Resource strategy plan created; Executive Assistant Hired with start date of December 12, 2018; Job Posting for Deputy Registrar/Professional Conduct, in development
- * Office infrastructure acquired: computers; printers; domain name; Office 365 set up, etc. Borrowing office space at EMS Branch/Office of Disaster Management at Unit 7-1680 Ellice Avenue until appropriate to begin to lease our own space
- * General Legal Counsel for the College established
- * Logo development and website creation (in progress)
- * Completed site visits to College of Paramedics of Alberta and Saskatchewan College of Paramedics and Teleconference with College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia to understand their college structures and processes related to Registration; Clinical Competency, Professional Conduct; Education Approval.

TRANSITION COUNCIL ACTIVITY

- * Monthly Council meetings
- * Meet and Greet sessions between Executive Director and Council Members
- * Establishment of Executive Committee of Council
- * Governance Committee and Finance Committee currently being established

What to Expect – January 2019 – March 2019

- * College contact information available
- * Finalization of a College Logo
- * Website operational
- * Hiring of Deputy Registrar
- * RFP issued for Regulatory Software
- * Develop schedule for Informational Webinars
- * Bimonthly newsletters