



College of Paramedics of Manitoba

Protecting public interest through
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September 23, 2022

Recently, Labor Day has been recognized within our Province. Labor Day is a statutory holiday that honors and celebrates those who contribute to the workforce. The achievements of paramedics in Manitoba over this past summer are to be admired. Long hours, staff shortages, and a high demand for service has been incredibly challenging. Thank you to Manitoba paramedics for all your service and endless hard work. Manitobans are privileged to have you in their ERS system.

May and August resulted in paramedic graduates successfully passing the COPR entry to practice exam. We welcome these new graduates into the paramedic profession. We are thankful for those, who despite many challenges, are willing to mentor and coach new graduates. A supportive mentor makes the difference to someone who is newly entering the profession. Thank you to all paramedic preceptors for elevating your profession!

2021-22 AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021-22 AGM on June 23, 2022. A video recording of the AGM is now found on the College website: <https://collegeparamb.ca/2022/09/cpmb-annual-general-meeting-video/>

The Annual Report of the College, from the 2021-22 year is also posted on the College website [here](#).

Registration

As CPMB becomes more established, we see the months of July and August trending as a less active period for new applications. This is primarily because the COPR entry-to-practice exams are written in May and then in August. The successful applicants from the May sitting typically register in June, and those from the August sitting would apply in September. CPMB continues to work with employers to address the paramedic labour shortage by issuing "provisional" registrations where warranted. Written requests are made in writing from employers to the College, to determine if provisional registrations will be issued.

College staff are preparing for registration renewal, which will be February 1, 2023-March 15, 2023. We will be advising registrants who will be required to submit background checks as part of their registration renewal this year in the Fall of 2022. Please keep an eye out for college emails if you did not have to provide the background checks as part of the 2022 renewal process. 20% of registrants will be required to obtain background checks as we establish our 5-year cycle. Once the 5-year cycle is established, each registrant will be required to provide background checks every 5 years as part of their renewal. This is required under the CPMB *General Regulations*, which can be found on our website. All health care professionals regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act are required to fulfill this obligation.



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Two other important aspects of renewal that registrants need to be actively preparing for are:

- The Program of Continuing Competency: Please see communications sent by CPMB and available on our website and in the PCC section of this newsletter.
- Professional Liability Insurance (PLI): Please renew your PLI prior to its expiry date and upload your new certificate of PLI to your portal once you have received it. You will not be able to complete the renewal process if you do not have current valid PLI uploaded. Some College registrants have received an email from the Paramedic Association of Manitoba (PAM) that the insurer PAM and PAC have an agreement with is changing. Please check your PAM emails frequently and keep yourself apprised of important changes that may require an action from yourself.

Please be reminded that registrants must keep their information current on their portals. This includes information such as:

- Address and phone numbers
- Email address (your portal is linked to your email address so you should not be using your work email address. Each registrant must use an exclusive email address.)
- Employment including start and end dates for each employer.

Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators Entry to Practice Exam

As many of you know, to register with the College of Paramedics of Manitoba, paramedics have to have completed an approved (by the Council) Paramedic education program and pass the COPR entry to practice exam. But did you also know.....

- Manitoba utilizes the COPR entry to practice exam for EMR, PCP, and ACP
- Manitoba has had representatives on the PCP and ACP (and most recently EMR) exam development group and continues to have representatives on the Exam Maintenance Committee
- These representatives create questions, edit questions, ensure there are references for answer choices, and reevaluate question performance and relevance before they are put into permanent circulation (exam question pool). Following the exam, they review questions identified as potentially "problematic" to ensure fairness on a national level
- Each COPR entry to practice exam draws from hundreds of questions in an exam pool to ensure randomization of exam material – no two exams are identical.
- The exam is delivered primarily "online" with the assistance of "virtual proctoring". This means paramedic graduates can write at any location rather than travelling to a computer lab in a major center.
- The exam questions are psychometrically analyzed to ensure relevance, defensibility, and the integrity of the entry to practice exam process.



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Program for Continuing Competency

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Documentation of your Continuing Competency submission will not be done within the Registrant Portal for the 2022-23 PCC cycle. We apologize for the ongoing delay with the software not being available and continue to work with our vendor to rectify this situation. Fillable forms are now available on the College website at: <https://collegeparamb.ca/professional-practice/program-for-continuing-competency/>

Please access the PCC Documentation instructions to ensure you create and maintain your professional portfolio correctly. **Currently there is no mechanism to upload your 2022-23 submission, so registrants are responsible to save and retain the PCC portfolio.** Registrants do not have to provide it to the college unless requested.

If you have started your PCC for the 2022-23 cycle by manually printing forms, please transfer the information from your self-reflection and learning goal activities to these fillable forms. If you haven't started your PCC for the 2022-23 cycle, **NOW IS THE TIME!!** There is still time to complete the annual requirements before the Registration Renewal February 1 -March 15, 2023.

Reference material regarding determining credible learning sites is also found on the college website at: <https://collegeparamb.ca/professional-practice/program-for-continuing-competency/>.

If you have any questions regarding the manual recording of your PCC activities that have not been addressed in the instructions and/or revised PCC Handbook, please contact Leith Saunders (lsaunders@collegeparamb.ca).

The Continuing Competency Committee have been meeting on a regular basis. They have assisted with updating the FAQ and PCC Handbook. Committee members are also in the process of reviewing PCC submissions for some of the registrants who did not meet required deadlines and are trialing an audit rubric that will be used to provide feedback to registrants who have been audited. The goal of PCC audits is to enhance college registrant's personal professional development by providing constructive feedback.

Expression of Interest – Volunteer Opportunities with the College of Paramedics of Manitoba

The College is pleased to invite interested paramedics to submit an expression of interest form for the following positions:

Complaints Investigation Committee – 4 paramedic members required

Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee – 1 non-Council paramedic member required



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The Council and College staff are extremely appreciative of those who have served on these committees to date. Turnover of committee members is inevitable due to employment and personal circumstances. The Appointments committee looks forward to reviewing the expressions of interest and will work to fill all vacancies over the next 2 months.

Further information about volunteer opportunities is found here:

- [Complaints Investigation Committee](#)
- [Finance Audit and Risk Committee](#)

Communication Reminders

Please remember to check your email often for messages from the College including checking your junk/spam folders. Please add info@collegeparamb.ca, as well as email addresses of staff to your safe sender's list.

We invite the public and registrants to contact us at any time with questions about policy or processes. Please use the Contact Us Form <https://collegeparamb.ca/contact-us/> or email the College at info@collegeparamb.ca

Website

A reminder to all registrants to use our website as a source of information as the answers to many of your questions can be found there. The website is updated regularly to keep you informed regarding college activities and professional responsibilities. Please take time to explore the website at <https://collegeparamb.ca/>