

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR DENTAL BOARD
Office of the Registrar
Suite 204, 55 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's, Newfoundland AIA 1W9

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Minutes of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board Meeting

A meeting of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at the Capital Hotel, Kenmount Road, St. John's.

In Attendance: Dr. Paul O'Brien, Dr. Linda Blakey, Dr. Sheldon Best, Dr. Sneha Abhyankar, Dr. Paul Hurley, Dr. Patrick Snow, Mrs. Joan Lamswood, Mrs. Paula Parsons, and Mr. Craig Finch.

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of Agenda with additional topics – Orientation for New Board Members, Succession Planning and Facility Permits. **Motion** to approve the Agenda as amended. Moved and Seconded by Dr. S. Abhyankar and Dr. P. Snow. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of October 25, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve as presented. Moved and Seconded by Dr. P. Snow and Mrs. J. Lamswood. **Motion Carried.**

Business Arising

Business arising is incorporated into the Agenda.

New Business

Update on Dental Act Working Group

Due to circumstances the group did not have an opportunity to formally meet since last Board meeting. Sections that may need amendments were discussed.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning Incorporation and corporate structure changes for dental practices. The Registrar advised any considerations for change should come from the dentist's advocacy group. Members felt the Board must be willing to support those changes if they are of no detriment to the public.

It was suggested that the NLDA could seek legal counsel, whose practice focuses on corporate law, tax, and corporations, and prepare a synopsis of the present legislation and amendments for feedback.

Dr. Blakey recommends consideration be given to changes in the categories of licensure, particularly for Specialists, and also to enable Retired Dentists to practice at the Gathering Place. With this review, the objective should focus on removing sections from the Act/Regulations into By Laws, Standards of Practice, Guidelines, etc. so that the Board can modify scopes of practice, and categories of licensures without requiring Government approval.

Update Sedation and General Anesthesia Work Group

Dr. Best advised they are continuing to work on reviewing provincial legislation on Sedation and GA in addition to accreditation and examinations. It is unclear yet if the Royal College will provide examination for Anesthesia.

Mandatory Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Portal was discussed. Consideration will be given to eliminating the limits for submitting courses in a particular category. Currently you are only permitted to enter the allowable number of credits in a category. By making this change registrants may enter all the courses they have taken. While it is not a requirement to show extra credits, it may be a valuable tool to track all the courses taken. Another issue discussed was difficulty with entering the program with the requirement to reset your password.

Motion: To accept the Continuing Education Portal Development Plan. Moved & Seconded by Dr. S. Best and Dr. S. Abhyankar. **Motion Carried.**

Motion: At the completion of this cycle August 31, 2025, the CE cycle will return to a three-year cycle. Moved and Seconded by Mrs. P. Parsons and Dr. P. Hurley. **Motion Carried.**

Complaints Authorization Committee

To date we have received fourteen written complaints from the public who have followed the complaint process. The Board has also received emails, telephone calls etc. from individuals who have chosen not to follow the process. All complaints have been resolved except for one.

The Registrar reported on other issues that have arisen from past complaints.

Financial Report

The Registrar reported that the Finance Committee has reviewed the audited 2022 Financial Statements. The Financial Statements, 2024 Budget and the investment portfolio were presented to the Board for review and discussion.

It was questioned whether the Board would consider covering the cost of CPR courses for Registrants. Discussion ensued. It was agreed the Board will not be involved with offering courses.

The Contingency Fund and Legal Defence Funds were discussed. The Contingency reserve is funded by the Board's investment funds. The Board has significant liability insurance plus within the Act itself, there is defence liability protection.

Discussion ensued as to activities the Board could become involved with. It was agreed that money should be allocated to modernize IT services with the newest technology at the Board office and to offer education sessions to Registrants on the use of the new CE Portal.

Motion: Moved by Mrs. J. Lamswood and seconded by Mrs. P. Parsons to accept the Financial Statements as presented. **Motion Carried.**

AGM

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting was reviewed.

Orientation for New Board Members

The Board will move toward creating an Orientation Day for new Board members. Consideration may also be given to inviting a solicitor to make a presentation to the full Board outlining the mandate and role of the Board.

Succession Planning

The Registrar will prepare a job description for the position of Registrar and will submit by mid January.

The next meeting, as decided at the October 2023 meeting, is scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2024, at 1 PM at the Board office.

Adjournment

There being no further business there was a **Motion** to adjourn – Moved and Seconded – Dr. S. Abhyankar and Mrs. J. Lamswood. **Motion Carried.**