

## Council Highlights

January 30, 2009

Council welcomed Robert Pletsch, Public Member, Susan Brickell, RMT (District 2), Rick Overeem, RMT (District 7) and Karen Redgers, RMT (District 5) to the Council as this was the first Council meeting of their terms.

The election of the Executive Committee was held by Council and W. Peter Roach, RMT was elected as President. Lynn Dobson, Public Member was elected as Vice- President and Romilla Gupta, Public Member was elected as the Executive Officer.

Council then took time to review and sign their annual agreements to maintain Confidentiality as required by the RHPA and to protect Privacy in accordance with the College's Privacy Policy.

### By-law No. 8, "The Register", Proposed Amendment

Once again, Council proposed to amend By-law 8, "The Register". By-law No. 8, sets out what information the College will maintain about members of the College and what information it will require members to update annually. Of the information collected and maintained, the By-law specifies what information will be made available to the public. The information on the Register that is publically available is often known as the "Public Register".

The College has an obligation to provide all the information related to a member that is stated as "available to the public" or on "the public register" upon request. Typically this is done during a telephone call to the College. However, effective June 4, 2009, an amendment to the RHPA is coming into effect which will require all the Colleges to develop and maintain a website and to make all information that is on the public register available through the College's website.

To date, Registration numbers have been on the public Register so that insurers can verify that massage therapy services were provided by Massage Therapists through matching the member's name, business address and Registration number on the receipt with the College's records. There is a history of misuse of member's Registration numbers by unregulated individuals to gain access to insurance money. Members have expressed concern to the College that if there their numbers were to be easily accessible through the College's website, they would no longer be able to protect them as required by the College's Policy on Certificates of Registration. The College's Professional Conduct department and Complaints Committee also expressed concern regarding misuse of numbers.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

The College is proposing to amend By-law 8, The Register, to move:

“s. 3 j) the certificate number assigned to the member at the time of first registration”,  
to the non-public portion of the Register to become the new s. 4 f).

Council expects that doing so will help prevent insurance fraud by making Registration numbers inaccessible to the Public. This is not expected to prevent reimbursement of massage therapy services as the College can still match names and business addresses on the Register to the information provided on receipts. In the event that the insurer still has some concerns, the insurer will be directed back to the massage therapist for further information.

With the 2010 renewal cycle, the College will ask members if they wish to consent to the provision of their Registration number to an insurer as part of the renewal process which will enable to College to provide a member's Registration number if the member has given consent.

The proposed amendment has been circulated to the members and stakeholders for comment and posted on the College's website. Members have 60 days in which to make comments on the proposed amendments to the College.

### Council Education

Council received a presentation on the prevention of sexual abuse and the how it relates to their mandated responsibilities in managing complaints, discipline and client relations activities.

Council approved the Committee appointments for 2009. The appointments can be found on the College's website.

### 2009 Budget

Council received and approved the 2009 budget.