



Hi everyone. I'm Brad Kane, president of the ACAC, on behalf of Council.

I'd like to update you on some key highlights from the last two Council meetings held in March and June.

Three key highlights from the March meeting are:

1. Adoption of the resolution from the 2019 AGM to release Council meeting minutes;
2. Approval to present the 2020 AGM virtually; and
3. Adoption of a mandatory record-keeping course.

Let me walk you through the deliberations Council undertook on these decisions.

1. Adoption of the resolution from the 2019 AGM to release Council meeting minutes

- Council undertook due diligence to review this resolution by consulting with other health regulatory colleges as well as trends in professional regulation across Canada.
- This review showed that while there is a range of practices across colleges, the overall trend in regulation is greater transparency.
- Council is dedicated to transparency, as evidenced by the launch of the Council update in October 2017.
- In response to both trends in professional regulation and the resolution, Council approved releasing meeting minutes starting July 1, 2020 forward.
- To ensure everyone is informed of how the process works, it is important to note that minutes will be available only after they have been formally approved at a Council meeting.
- As such, there is a delay between when the meeting happens and when the meeting minutes are approved. For example, minutes for the meeting in September will be released after they are formally approved at the Council meeting in December.
- Finally, as minutes are a record of what was decided, not what was discussed, Council will continue to provide the Council update to help provide context on key items.

2. Approval to present the 2020 AGM virtually

- When we met in March, COVID-19 had just been declared a pandemic the day before and we were grappling to understand what the impact would be in Alberta.
- Realizing there was more unknown than known, we looked ahead to see how this would impact our in-person events such as the AGM.
- Out of an abundance of caution, we approved to conduct the AGM in a virtual environment.
- Moving to a virtual AGM will bring some significant changes, such as a shorter and more focused agenda and changes to processes.
- While we will miss being in person, we hope that a positive outcome will be increased participation such as we saw when we moved to online voting.
- The AGM is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, and more information will follow in August.

3. Adoption of a mandatory record-keeping course

- Under the Health Professions Act mandate of protection of the public, Council is responsible for the achievement of three overarching requirements: registration and renewal, continuing competence, and complaints and discipline.
- Continuing competence encompasses both the maintenance and improvement of competence in the delivery of patient care.
- The practice review program measures chiropractic competence in relation to the ACAC Standards of Practice.
- Based on practice review feedback for the last several years, there is evidence to indicate that competence around record-keeping often declines below the minimum acceptable standard over time.
- While we understand the factors that can contribute to this decline, record-keeping is the foundation that underpins the provision of safe and ethical patient care.
- Based on the recommendations of the Registrar and the Continuing Competence Committee, Council has approved the requirement for an annual record-keeping course, effective for the current membership year.
- Council is sensitive about keeping practice requirements limited to those that support members' ability to provide safe and ethical care. We also want to minimize obstacles for members to meeting these requirements.
- The record-keeping course is an online course that has been developed in partnership with CMCC and the College of Chiropractors of British Columbia. The online platform makes the record-keeping course very accessible for members.
- We understand costs related to requirements are of concern as well. Given the unexpected challenges associated with COVID-19, and in partnership with CMCC, Council is providing free access to the record-keeping course through June 20, 2021.
- We hope these supports are helpful as we incorporate the record-keeping course into our annual continuing competence requirements.

Now I want to share with you five key highlights from the June meeting:

1. Approval of a strategic plan
2. Review of essential services designation
3. Approval of changes to the practice review program
4. Approval of a comprehensive government relations plan
5. 5. Approval of telehealth as a permanent modality

1. Approval of a strategic plan

- A strategic plan envisions a desired future and defines broad goals and objectives to achieve by a certain date.
- While the ACAC has always operated under strategic imperatives that were central to the profession, there were not specific goals and timelines attached.
- Council has been working to develop its first ever strategic plan, and I'm pleased to share that this was approved in June.
- The vision of our strategic plan is to "Empower Albertans to live their healthiest lives"

- This reflects the relationships we have with our patients and the support we provide as part of their broader health care team.
- The strategic plan will guide the ACAC's efforts over the next three years.
- The strategic plan is being designed with the goal of sharing it with members later this summer.

2. Review of essential services designation

- When clinics were closed during the pandemic, some members questioned why chiropractic care wasn't designated an essential service.
- We have done some investigation that includes a legal review, and have learned that essential services designation, like most things, is more complex than it would seem at the surface.
- We will be communicating what we've learned in a separate email to provide the context and then will be seeking member feedback about next steps.

3. Approval of changes to the practice review program

- The practice review program measures chiropractic competence in relation to the ACAC Standards of Practice.
- The program is designed to provide feedback and coaching to members on areas that need improvement, with a defined process to help support adjustments as required.
- The current system has some gaps as follows:
 - Members who willingly make adjustments are restricted from certain activities until they pass their next standard practice review, which is typically done in four-year intervals;
 - Members who don't make adjustments have no consequences for choosing to ignore the feedback and coaching.
- At the recommendation of the Registrar and in consultation with the Continuing Competence Committee, Council has approved a new framework that addresses these gaps.
- Members who willingly make adjustments can opt to participate in a standard practice review within one year of their initial fail instead of four, removing restrictions on activities.
- Members who demonstrate a pattern of no improvement face an escalating series of accountabilities to address the gaps.
- These changes were made to help support and advance members' continuing competence responsibilities, and we look forward to seeing the progress.

4. Approval of a comprehensive government relations program

- Since delisting in 2007, the ACAC has undertaken a predominantly issues-focused approach to government relations.
- Sheila Steger, our CEO, recommended shifting to a more comprehensive government relations program that would build necessary relationships on an ongoing basis to leverage when an issue arises.
- A comprehensive plan has been developed in consultation with Keill Communications, a strategic communications and public affairs firm with experience at all orders of government.
- This plan features a year-round approach to engagement with government and includes opportunities for volunteer engagement.
- Council approved the plan, and we are excited about the opportunities for the profession we think will come as a result.
- The staff will be operationalizing it in the coming months, so more details to follow.

5. Approval of telehealth as a permanent modality

- While telehealth wasn't on the radar for chiropractic prior to the pandemic, the mandated closure of clinics required that we explore this option to provide continuity of care for patients.
- We heard from many members that their patients appreciated being able to continue care during the lockdown, as chiropractic care is essential to their ability to undertake their activities of daily living.
- Given the positive impacts for patients, Council has approved this as a permanent modality in Alberta.

I hope this update has been helpful. As I hope you can see, Council and staff are actively working on your behalf. If you have any questions please [connect with your Council contact](#).