



## SCPP Council President's Address

May 8, 2020

Hello colleagues,



We are in historic times. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us like never before, and when I see the response from community and hospital pharmacies and pharmacy professionals across the province, words cannot capture the immense pride and gratitude I have to be on the front lines with you.

Communities are relying on their pharmacy professionals now more than ever. It reminds me again and again of the “why” of our profession – our patients and their health and safety. Everything I do as a pharmacist and everything we do as the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) Council is guided by this.

During this difficult time, you have shown up and stayed true to the “why.”

Our joint mission of public protection is the reason we extended the internship category until our pharmacy graduates can complete their Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) qualifying examinations. One of the primary roles of a regulatory body is to ensure entry to practice standards and competencies are met and to ensure these standards are maintained throughout the member's career. The PEBC examinations are the Canadian National exams that certify an applicant's knowledge, skills and abilities and are a requirement for being licensed with the College.

The previous conditional licensure process was always intended as a short-term bridge to practice until a graduate received the successful results of their PEBC examinations. With the current delay in the PEBC examinations, it would have meant an entire class of graduates would remain in a conditional status for five months or more.

Extended internships will ensure a sound foundation as our new graduates embark on their pharmacy careers in a time that has seen unprecedented changes in the practice of pharmacy. Graduates will have the opportunity to orient themselves under the mentorship and supervision of practising members during these very stressful and uncertain times.

With forward thinking, the SCPP council has focused on ensuring public safety while meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our new expedited, no-fee, temporary emergency licensure for recently retired or non-practising members is an example of this, and depending on whatever new challenges we may face throughout the course of this pandemic, we have other bylaws in place to assist in increasing the health care labour force if necessary. Other examples like the Section 56 exemption, the change to Part K of the bylaws allowing the continuation of Schedule I medications, and enabling virtual pharmacy services with the Pexip program, are all

ways we are working to remove barriers to health care for Saskatchewan residents while upholding our mandate of public protection.

In trying times like this, we have to stick to our mission and values. Pandemic or no pandemic, we show up and we serve our patients.

Thank you for your hard work and putting your patients first. You risk your own and your family's health daily and constantly adapt your business to keep our province healthy and safe and meet the challenges of the pandemic

I cannot thank you enough.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn', written in a cursive style.

Marilyn

SCPP Council President