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# MINUTES

## Transition Council

January 9, 2025

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Virtual

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Presiding Officer: Ms. Catherine Knipe

Members present:

- Dr. Patricia Alderson
- Dr. Claire Beauchamp
- Ms. Kirsti Clarida, RVT
- Dr. Kathleen Day Dunbar
- Ms. Cathy Hecimovich
- Ms. Lisa Langton, RVT
- Dr. Louise Kelly
- Dr. Lena Levison
- Dr. Clayton MacKay
- Dr. Sean Marshall
- Mr. Phil Nichols, RVT
- Dr. Alana Parisi
- Dr. Sami Qureshi
- Dr. Jessica Retterath
- Mr. Douglas Reynolds
- Ms. Rena Spevack
- Dr. Yashvir Varma
- Dr. Wade Wright
- Dr. Michael Zigler

Appointed Officer: Ms. Jan Robinson, Registrar and CEO

Staff attending:

- Ms. Sarah Kirby, Director, Policy
- Dr. Kim Lambert, Associate Registrar, Regulatory Programs
- Ms. Kali Pieters, Policy & Projects Coordinator
- Ms. Shilo Tooze, Deputy Registrar
- Ms. Alice Couto, Executive Assistant

## 1. Call to Order

Ms. Catherine Knipe, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm and welcomed Councillors.

## 2. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

## 4. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

## 5. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the minutes of the meeting held on December 5, 2024, be accepted as circulated.”

CARRIED

## 6. Transition Council Evaluation

Council reviewed the evaluation from the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council meeting.

## 7. Continuing Concept Work Related to the Authorized Activities Model

Ms. Jan Robinson, Registrar introduced this topic, noting that there would be a dual focus for the meeting. Council was asked to review one of the concepts for the first time while the other agenda items were previously discussed topics that were flagged for further consideration or review.

### 7.1. Integrating Existing Veterinary Technician Roles Outside of Accredited Veterinary Facilities Under the Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024

Ms. Jan Robinson introduced this agenda item noting that at its last meeting, Council asked College staff to further consider and research potential pathways for assuring that the roles that veterinary technicians have currently established outside of accredited veterinary facilities could continue with appropriate public protection safeguards under the new *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024*.

Ms. Sarah Kirby went on to outline the options that College staff provided for veterinary technicians currently working outside of accredited facilities to transition over into the new framework while ensuring regulatory oversight and accountability. Five pathways were presented for Transition Council's consideration for public consultation. The pros and cons, the authority for the regulatory exemption and the conditions associated with the regulatory allowance were outlined for the five pathways. Full details were provided in the discussion paper found in the package.

A discussion ensued and the Registrar and Ms. Kirby answered questions posed by Council. Council provided a general agreement for the five proposed pathways to be included in a regulatory concept related to the authorized activity model.

## **7.2. Non-Drug Authorized Activities Under Initiation**

Ms. Kirby introduced this topic, noting that at its last meeting, Council requested that this topic be returned to College staff for further work and development, including engaging with equine practitioners to solicit their experiences in this area.

Ms. Kirby noted that conversations with the Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners and the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners took place. Ms. Kirby outlined the current framework for anal gland expression, the RVT Core competencies and education and current considerations for both rectal examinations and anal gland expression.

A discussion ensued and Council provided a general consensus that anal gland expression be allowed under initiation and that rectal exams remain under the order or delegation of the veterinarian and these will be presented for inclusion in a regulatory concept related to the authorized activity model.

## **7.3. Dental Extractions**

Ms. Kirby introduced this topic, noting that after its last meeting, Council requested further insight into how the performance of dental extractions does or does not intersect with the performance of major surgery and the pros and cons of including this activity at the regulation or policy level. Ms. Kirby outlined the additional work that had been completed since the last Council meeting including the current framework for major surgery and dental extractions, current approaches in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan and legal advice that was provided.

Ms. Kirby provided two options for consideration, those being that dental extractions are delegable, and dental extractions are non-delegable.

A discussion ensued and Council provided consensus that dental extractions are a non-delegable act.

## 7.4. Pharmacy Professionals

Ms. Kirby introduced this topic noting that at its last meeting, Council raised additional questions related to pharmacists issuing renewals of prescriptions. Ms. Kirby outlined additional information gathered since the last meeting, including information on the renewal of prescriptions by Pharmacists, conversations with the Ontario College of Pharmacists and early considerations related to policy development by the Ontario College of Pharmacists.

Based on the additional information, two updated proposals pertaining to a regulatory exemption for pharmacy were developed, including a regulatory exemption for members of the Ontario College of Pharmacists and that authorized activities be permitted to be performed by pharmacy professionals under regulatory exemption.

A discussion ensued and Council provided a general consensus for the proposed approach to regulatory exemption related to pharmacy professionals dependent on the pending decisions of the Ontario College of Pharmacists.

## 7.5. Drugs

Ms. Kirby introduced this new concept. An overview of the relevant sections of legislation, by-law, and policy related to drugs was provided. She noted that since the College's 2018 Concept Paper was developed there has been an increase in both internal and external conversations related to the prescribing, dispensing, compounding, administering and/or selling of drugs by veterinary professionals. The College undertook additional research and outreach related to drugs to ensure that the rules and regulations were in line with the core principles of risk mitigation and governing in the public interest. Ms. Kirby noted that in completing the work, it became clear that most concerns were better addressed through federal changes related to the sale of veterinary drugs by drug manufacturers and wholesalers, except for two areas that the College identified that could be addressed under the *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024* and its associated regulations.

Ms. Kirby outlined the draft concept with the proposed inclusion of updated language related to prescription portability, language reflecting the different allowances for veterinary members and veterinary technician members and recognition of continued existing approaches.

A discussion ensued and the Registrar and Ms. Kirby answered questions posed by Council. Council provided a general consensus for the draft regulatory concept and associated draft language related to drugs.

## 8. Confidentiality

Councillors were reminded that Council meetings are public meetings.

Information discussed in in-camera sessions must be kept confidential by all in attendance. All budget/financial/strategic alignment documents are not to be shared outside of the meeting as these documents are working documents of Council and not public material. Any inquiries regarding the package can be directed to the website where the public package is posted.

Minutes of the Council meeting are not approved until its next meeting.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

- January 29, 2025, 1:00-4:00 pm

**10. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** It was moved,

“That the meeting of Council be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.



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Catherine Knipe  
Chair



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Jan Robinson  
Registrar & CEO



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Alice Couto  
Recording Secretary