

**1. What is the College of Paramedics?**

*The Paramedics Act*, passed in December 2015, establishes a College of Paramedics as the self-regulatory body responsible for the registration, licensing and oversight of the practice of paramedicine in Nova Scotia. The legislation takes effect on April 1, 2017, when the College of Paramedics will replace Emergency Health Services (EHS) as the Paramedic Regulator.

**2. What does this mean in relation to my current registration with Emergency Health Services and my ability to practice in Nova Scotia?**

Anyone actively registered and in good standing with EHS on March 31, 2017 will be eligible to register and be licensed to practice in Nova Scotia by the College of Paramedics. A license fee, to be determined by the College Council, must be paid before registration is complete and a license issued.

Anyone wishing to practice paramedicine on April 1, 2017 in Nova Scotia must complete the registration and licensing requirements established by the College of Paramedics Council and the regulations of *The Paramedics Act*.

**3. May paramedics have union or legal representation during compliant / misconduct matters?**

There are provisions in *The Paramedics Act* that enable a member of the college to be represented by legal counsel or a union representative, in matters before an investigation committee, hearing committee, and a re-instatement committee.

**4. What is the governance structure of the College of Paramedics?**

The College of Paramedics will be operated under the direction of a College Council; *The Paramedics Act* requires that the majority of the College of Paramedics' Council be paramedics.

**5. What will the percentage of the College Council will be paramedics?**

*The Paramedics Act* says the Council will have eight paramedics who are members of the College, and elected by the members, and who reflect the geographic distribution and license levels of the membership.

**6. How many people will be on the College of Paramedics Council?**

There will be an initial Council, to set up the College, followed by subsequent Councils. The initial Council will be appointed by government under an Order in Council, based upon recommendations of the Minister of Health and Wellness; members of the College will elect paramedic representatives for subsequent Councils.

Both the initial and subsequent Councils will include eight paramedics and four members of the public. Until March 31, 2019, the Provincial Medical Director (currently Dr. Andrew Travers) will sit on the Council. Until March 31, 2018, one representative from the College of Registered Nurses and one from College of Physicians and Surgeons will sit on the Council.

The public members of the initial and subsequent Councils will be appointed by government.

This governance structure is consistent with other self-regulated health professions.

**7. What will the cost of professional fees be?**

Registration and licensing fees will be set by the Council of the College of Paramedics. We expect these fees to be comparable to paramedic licensing fees in other Canadian jurisdictions, currently between \$400 and \$470 a year. Fees are a reflection of the costs to operate the College.

**8. Will professional fees be annually or bi-annual?**

Licensing fees will be on an annual basis; we anticipate that a payroll deduction plan may be available through employers.

**9. Will there be a requirement for Paramedics to carry and pay for personal liability (medical malpractice) insurance?**

In keeping with other legislation for self-regulation, there is authority in *The Paramedics Act* that authorizes the Council, through regulation, to require members carry specific types and levels of professional liability insurance or other form of malpractice coverage. Council will determine if personal liability insurance will be established under regulation.

**10. Who is managing the transition from the current EHS system to the new College of Paramedics?**

The Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness will ensure that the College is established and ready for operations on April 1, 2017. Department staff will receive input and guidance from the paramedic representatives of the College of Paramedics Advisory Committee (COPAC), current COPAC members include: Bruce Sangster, Colleen Carey, Darrell Bardua, Derek LeBlanc, Donna Warren, JJ MacIsaac, Karl Kowalczyk, Lawrence Briand, Maureen Sturgeon, and Paul Landriault.

**11. How can paramedics get involved now and after the College is operational?**

a) If you would like to learn more about self-regulation there are some excellent resources online, including (the web link is embedded, please click on the titles below):

- [Understanding Professional Self-Regulation](#), Glen E. Randall
  - [What Does It Mean To Be a Self-governing Regulated Profession?](#), Robert Schultze
- As well, [The Paramedics Act](#)

b) **Transition Work:** In the short term, you can provide input through College of Paramedics Advisory Committee (COPAC). There will soon be a request for additional COPAC membership to supplement current COPAC membership in order to include all geographic regions and classes of paramedics. Information regarding additional COPCA membership will be sent to all registered paramedics via email in the spring.

c) **Initial Council of the College of Paramedics:** In the spring, we will ask for applications from paramedics currently registered in Nova Scotia, who wish to be considered for government appointment to the initial Council of the College of Paramedics. Information about the application process and competencies required of applicants will be included with our request and will be sent to all registered paramedics via email.

**12. What do I do if I have questions or concerns?**



Please contact Dr. Andrew Travers or Bud Avery at EHS. They may be contacted at:

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