

Colleagues,

In November, I advised you that the government was about to introduce a new Paramedics Act, which would lead to self-regulation of our profession and the establishment of a College of Paramedics.

Health and Wellness Minister Leo Glavine introduced the legislation on Nov. 18. It passed Third Reading on Nov. 27, 2015. On Friday, December 18, the Lieutenant Governor gave Royal Assent and it is now the Paramedics Act

That sets the stage for the College of Paramedics to become operational on April 1, 2017, until then, paramedic registration and licensure will continue as it has in the past.

In preparation for April 1, 2017, the first council will be appointed, consisting of eight paramedic members reflecting all regions of the province and paramedics levels. There will also be four public representatives appointed by government, one representative each from the College of Registered Nurses Nova Scotia (CRRNS) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons Nova Scotia (CPSNS), and myself as Provincial Medical Director for EHS. The CRRNS and CPSNS members are there because they have experience in a self-regulated health profession. The council will establish the College, set its initial policies and procedures, and hire the staff needed to operate the College.

The College of Paramedics Advisory Council (COPAC) will continue to be involved in the development of the regulations and by-laws that are required to support operations of the new college. As we move forward, we will keep you informed of new developments and key milestones

This is a very exciting time to be a paramedic and the Nova Scotia College of Paramedics has been a long time in coming. Paramedics are part of a collaborative team that includes physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other health care providers. This legislation recognizes the collaborative nature of role that paramedics have within the health care system and the high esteem that Nova Scotians hold for paramedics and their professionalism.

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