

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2018

Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators/Organisation Canadienne des Régulateurs Paramédicaux

COPR/OCRP

Victoria, British Columbia

May 25, 2018

Introduction

On behalf of COPR/ORCP Council, it is my honour to table the eighth annual report of the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators/Organisation Canadienne des Régulateurs Paramédicaux (COPR/ORCP).

Previous annual reports have included:

- Acknowledgement of the labour mobility requirements which established COPR in 2008 – 10 years ago;
- Restatement that all jurisdictions supported the formation of the organization;
- The formal establishment of COPR in 2010;
- Recognition of the meetings, usually by teleconference, but also face-to-face of COPR Council, COPR Executive, the Information Sharing Working Group, Exam Committee and Exam Working Group.

Annual Reports have referred to the Strategic Plan, which is a 3-year rolling plan from 2017 through 2019.

The Strategic Plan, which has been regularly reviewed and is sound, has 9 priority actions, and of the 9, COPR has confirmed that 4 priority actions have been tagged as high priority for the organizations:

- Labour mobility;
- Professional standards;
- Equivalency assessment;
- Entry to practice examination.

Successes

As chair, I am pleased to report on the successes of the past year.

1. The reconfirmation of Nova Scotia and the Province of Quebec as COPR Council members is the benchmark success for the organization. With 8 of 10 provincial regulators at the table, COPR is truly the voice of paramedic regulators in Canada. Nevertheless, COPR will continue working towards the ideal when all regulators are participants in the forum.
2. The Examination Program continues to be a success for the organization. With 6 provinces utilizing the entry-to-practice examination, initiatives to review and improve

the examination and the examination processes, COPR's E2P exam is clearly equal to other benchmark licensing examinations for other health professionals. The Examination Program, also for the first time, recognized those candidates which received the highest marks in their examinations, COPR applauds Taralyn Stephen from Manitoba, who is the 2017 PCP examination winner, and Seth Helm from Saskatchewan, the 2017 ACP examination winner.

3. The many successes of the Information Sharing Working Group – and in particular the rapid jurisdictional surveys only the ISWG has been able to accomplish – have provided invaluable information to all regulators.
4. The recent approval by the federal government to fund the Paramedic Equivalency Assessment System Project will provide, for COPR, two years of support to develop a process that foreign educated paramedics, wishing to work in Canada, are provided a streamlined, fair and consistent assessment process.

Not only will this project result in an equivalency assessment process for foreign educational paramedics, there will be spin off benefits to assist CAF emergency medical services personnel, as well as an improved COPR website presence and opportunities for a higher profile with other stakeholders.

5. The issue of supporting a new accreditation model, though not yet complete at the time of this report has coalesced COPR on the issue of accreditation of paramedic training programs, and has highlighted a strength of the organization: 8 different regulators, each operating under a different regulatory scheme, working together to find a workable solution. I am confident that with our combined effort will be acceptable, and beneficial, to all regulators.
6. I should also mention that, although not a “success” of COPR, the recent announcement by Manitoba to move towards self-regulation, following relatively soon after implementation in Nova Scotia, is a transition that the forum of regulators must keep an eye on. The “success” for COPR in this area is continued sharing of information on how self regulation is, or is not, being considered by each regulator. With self-regulation, like the E2P examination and accreditation, COPR must always restate and reinforce the independence of each regulator's authority.

Opportunities

COPR, in the months and years ahead, has a number of opportunities, which if addressed, will continue to build a strong organization.

1) Securing adequate resources for the work required:

- COPR as a volunteer organization, is supported by excellent but limited contract services, has seen a number of priority actions stalled, or with progress below expectations, and
- COPR Council is currently addressing this, and I am confident that the accomplishments of the organization will be significant in 2018/19
- COPR Council members have in many instances been able to tap into the expertise within their organization to support various COPR projects. I hope this continues and if possible, be expanded.

2) Strengthening our stakeholder relations:

- COPR continues to develop a collaborative relationship with the Paramedic Association of Canada, and I am confident that the relationship will continue to build in a number of areas of common interest.
- There continues to be opportunities to develop effective collaboration with other paramedic stakeholders – the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada, SPEC, and others.
- Adding seats to the Council table. There is an interest and an opportunity to consider adding seats at the Council table for representatives from:
 - CAF,
 - Territories,
 - and there others who should be invited to the table on a regular or occasional basis, simply to be part of our conversations. For example, a chair from another health profession's Canadian regulatory organization.

Acknowledgements

I am honoured to acknowledge and thank the support of COPR Council – Jacquie, Corene, Corey, Collette, Karl, Ken and James – who each provide expertise, wisdom, advice and humour so

many times to me. Being part of COPR has undoubtedly been a highlight in my 40-year public service career.

I'd like to thank COPR Executive Jacquie, Corene and James for their guidance. I honestly wish I could stay on, but I also wish more to retire.

I want to thank Dale, Ben and Tammy who each have provided exceptional service to the organization, and I know always have the best interests of COPR at the top of mind.

From BC, I would like to thank the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board who I had the honour of representing on COPR, and who will continue to whole heartedly support COPR. I would also like to thank Amanda Saville, your new Director from BC, Kim Fiege, Mat Coleman, Jane Holt and the rest of the EMA Licensing Branch who dropped everything to do a "COPR" thing for me.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Simpson
Chair of Council (2017-2018)
COPR/ORCP