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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the main priorities in the SCPT strategic plan for 2023-2028, and one that I regularly champion, is member engagement which I now highlight in this message. I hope you see the value of that priority as much as the SCPT Council.

Recently you would have received a survey of our Continuing Competency Program. Feedback from last year's survey resulted in a significant change in the submission process. With your input, we can continue to make it better. While we do hear that some of you would like to not to have to undertake the process at all, this is a requirement and an expectation of any self-regulated profession, so it is here to stay. We all know competence is an ongoing process through one's career. We aim to provide resources to assist you in this journey and to demonstrate to the public that competency work is interwoven through careers.

You have received communication about a revised Bylaw process after some legislation changes via the Government of Saskatchewan. The revised Act allows SCPT Council to approve bylaws once membership feedback is sought and reviewed but no longer requires formal membership approval of bylaws. SCPT Council will be seeking feedback from

your engagement. There is a draft process for this change and your input was/will be sought through Town Halls and surveys. I encourage you all to review the information and provide your feedback as appropriate.

The work on our strategic priority of advancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in practice continues. Education sessions for staff and volunteers have taken place and further strategy work is planned. Our hope is to be able to have EDI principles embedded in all SCPT practices for the benefit of all stakeholders with the aim of continued and strengthened culturally appropriate care for all Saskatchewan residents.

We are working to keep your licensing fees as low as possible. After many years without an increase, we are now in the position where this is needed to maintain the status quo. We are still one of the least expensive registration fees among licensing bodies in Canada, and among other health professionals in Saskatchewan. Additional information is included in an article in this edition of Momentum.

As always, I am open to feedback. You can reach me at president@scpt.org.

Cathy Cuddington, President of SCPT Council

EDR REPORT

Spring in the SCPT office means the start of springtime renewal in nature and the end of **licensure renewal** in the office. Licence renewal this year went well with two large waves of members renewing. We saw a strong start to renewal with many renewing in early January, with steady numbers into February when we saw approximately 300 members renew the last week in February with many taking advantage of the extra day this leap year. I want to thank Tammy MacSymetz, our Registration and Operations Manager for her extra effort during renewal and supporting members throughout the renewal process.

Following licence renewal, annual **practice audits** start. Each year we audit in relation to practice hours, professional liability insurance, criminal record checks, and the Continuing Competency Program (CCP). These audits are ongoing but appear to be progressing without substantive issues. I want to thank all those participating for their cooperation and commitment to these regulatory processes.

As Cathy noted in her article, with recent legislative changes, the SCPT is proposing a new process for **bylaw development and changes** which includes membership feedback built into the process. Details of the proposed process can be found on the [SCPT website](#). Following two town halls where the proposal was presented and questions answered, members were sent a survey to gather their feedback. I encourage everyone to take the time to provide their thoughts on this governance change.

The bylaw process is just one of the ways SCPT Council and staff engage physical therapists in Saskatchewan. Another is to involve practitioners in SCPT committee work. You will see in this edition of Momentum two opportunities for participation in the operations of the SCPT. These include being an Assessor within our **Practice Based Assessment (PBA)** and being a member of the **Professional Conduct Committee (PCC)**. Additional details on both opportunities can be found in this Momentum as well as e-blasts physical therapists would have received in the past few weeks.

You will also see in this Momentum, information about the SCPT budgetary process and the changing fiscal environment faced by many. In summary, our operational reserves are reaching a point where the organization needs to update its fees. In the coming months, the SCPT Council will be providing more details about proposed fee increases but they wanted to ensure physical therapists were given as much advanced notice as possible.

We were able to offer two rounds of the **Practice Based Assessment (PBA)** this past fall and have one round scheduled for May. We anticipate offering at least two rounds in fall 2024 and one in the spring of 2025.

I wanted to thank members who took time and participated in the CCP and Renewal survey that closed at the end of March. We had over 170 respondents providing feedback on primarily the CCP. As they were last year, the results will be considered by the Continuing Competency Committee and if need be, changes or adjustments will be implemented.

If you have any questions about anything SCPT please feel free to email or call the office.

*Jason Vogelsang (he/him/his) [Why I declare my pronouns](#)
Executive Director and Registrar*

SCPT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE WORK HIGHLIGHTS

Below are a few highlights of the work of the SCPT Council and Committees. It's by no means comprehensive but gives members a flavour of our ongoing work.

Council

- Reviewed the preliminary 2024-2025 budget.
- Approved several specialized procedure courses.
- Reviewed various policies and procedures including new bylaw process, fitness to practice process, interim measures process, and changes to the code of ethical conduct.
- A sub-group of Council reviewed and provided feedback to the government on the governments initial draft of umbrella legislation for health regulators in Saskatchewan.

Professional Standards of Practice Committee (PSOP)

- Ongoing review of the revisions to the National Core Standards of Practice for Physiotherapists in Canada.
- Reviewed 2-3 specialized procedure courses and making recommendations to Council.

Finance Committee

- Reviewed and presented the initial 2024-2025 budget to Council.

Professional Conduct Committee (PCC)

- Has received eight new complaints in 2024 that they have or are investigating.
- Work on various procedures related to fitness to practice process and interim measures process.

Continuing Competency Committee (CCC)

- Ongoing finalization of the jurisprudence blueprint and question bank.
- Organized and offered the Leadership Webinar in support of the CCP mandatory domain.



2024-2025 BUDGET



At its March 13, 2024, meeting the SCPT Council received and reviewed a preliminary 2024-2025 budget from the Finance Committee and staff. Council typically reviews a preliminary budget in March and approves a final budget at its May meeting.

The preliminary budget is a status quo budget on the expenditure side but includes proposed increases to licence renewal and other fees. Specifically, it recommends an increase to the licence renewal fee of \$75 per each year for the next 2-3 years: \$575 effective January 1, 2025, \$650 effective January 1, 2026, and a tentative increase to \$725 effective January 1, 2027 (subject to fiscal position at the time).

The SCPT has not increased its fees since 2020. This was because prior to 2020 the organization had accumulated a significant reserve of money. This reserve is split between restricted reserves that can

be used in only certain circumstances (ceasing operations, disaster, unexpected legal expenses, and unexpected discipline expenses) and unrestricted reserves that are held to fund yearly budgetary operating deficits.

Rather than considering increased fees, past Councils committed to draw down the unrestricted reserves to pay for strategic priorities for the organization and have done so. In the past number of years, the organization has added a half time Practice Advisor to support members with their practice questions, increased the Executive Director and Registrar role to full-time, and produced practice resources for members, just to name a few.

At the same time, Council and staff have, and continue to, pursue cost savings. These have included eliminating the Administrative Assistant position within the office, efficiencies in operations (telephone costs, bulk purchasing collaboration for credit card fees, printing costs), and continued to encourage savings in relation to Council and Committee meetings.

In the past number of years, the operational deficit has been \$70,000-\$85,000 annually and are anticipated to be approximately \$110,000 for the 2024-2025 budget year. The unrestricted reserves are nearing a point where increased fees are needed to ensure the fiscal viability of SCPT operations to meet our mandate.

More information and opportunities for member input will be available in the coming months as the budget process continues and any resulting changes to Administrative Bylaws (where fees are housed) are proposed. However, Council wanted to provide this information sooner rather than later for various individual and organizational planning purposes.

*Liz Rackow, Treasurer and
Jason Vogelsang, Executive Director and Registrar*

ASK THE PRACTICE ADVISOR

VIRTUAL CARE LICENCING REQUIREMENTS

The role of the practice advisor (PA) is to guide members to information that will assist with practical decision-making respecting professional legislation, standards of practice and ethical considerations. The PA is also responsible to assist members with completion of the requirements for the Continuing Competency Program (CCP). Each Momentum will have a sample member question with a response from the Practice Advisor.

Question:

I am an SCPT member with a full practicing license and have a question regarding providing virtual care to a Saskatchewan resident when they are holidaying in another province.

A client I provide care to is travelling to British Columbia for a couple of months to visit family and wishes to continue her physical therapy virtually while there. What are the licensing requirements when a Saskatchewan resident is temporarily located in another province and wishes to receive ongoing care virtually from their Saskatchewan physical therapist?

Practice Advisor Response:

With the increasing use of virtual care, including telerehabilitation, email, texting, or telephone, this is a very common question. In short, the physical location of the client, regardless of if they are a Saskatchewan resident or not, dictates the secondary licensing requirement of the PT.

The most pertinent SCPT regulations includes:

[SCPT Standard of Practice #20 Telerehabilitation](#)
(and related Standards)

“Is aware of and complies with licensing requirements in their primary or home jurisdiction and in the jurisdiction where the client is located.”

[SCPT Practice Resource: Telerehabilitation](#)

- *“Physical therapists shall be registered as a member of the physiotherapy regulatory body in the jurisdiction where the physiotherapist resides and where the majority of their patients are physically situated (“Primary Jurisdiction”).*
- *Physical therapists who intend to provide cross border telerehabilitation services shall be registered as a member of the physiotherapy regulatory body in all other jurisdictions where the patients who are receiving physiotherapy services directly from the physiotherapist are physically located “Secondary Jurisdiction(s)”.*
- *Physical therapists shall ensure they meet, and are practicing in compliance with, all regulatory and registration requirements in both the primary and secondary jurisdictions when providing cross border telerehabilitation.”*

Saskatchewan Physical Therapists are encouraged to contact the respective Physical Therapy College for out of province licensing information.



SCPT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

PBA Assessor (1-2 positions)

The PBA is in need of and recruiting a Practice Based Assessor. Information and details about the PBA can be found on the [SCPT website](#).

Specifically, the PBA requires an Assessor to conduct interviews with supervisors. For each round the Assessors chosen will conduct interviews for up to five supervisors who supervise candidates as per PBA questions, meet with their group to discuss group results, and then meet with the full Evaluation Committee to discuss and finalize PBA results.

The time commitment for Supervisor Interview Assessors is approximately 7 hours per round of the PBA including group and committee meeting times. There are typically three rounds per year: two in the fall and one in the spring. Orientation, training and shadowing/mentoring will be available.

Compensation will be at HSAS rates of \$48.38/hour.

Qualifications

- Currently hold a full practicing license with the SCPT
- Minimum of 10 years of practice experience in Canada
- Prior evaluation experience (i.e. CAPR examiners or through course/academic instruction and evaluation) is an asset
- Note that individuals who are currently a supervisor of a Restricted Licensee, currently employed by the University of Saskatchewan School Of Rehabilitation Science, or currently employed by or on the SCPT Council/Committees are not eligible to be an Assessor.

Selection will be based on qualifications and will endeavour to include representation from both public and private practice settings, rural and urban practice settings, representation from the three primary areas of practice in physical therapy (MSK, Neuro, Cardio-Resp), at least one specialty area of practice, and at least one internationally educated physical therapist.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email your CV/resume highlighting relevant experience to edr@scpt.org no later than **April 30, 2024**. Questions can also be directed to the same email address.

(cont.)

SCPT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Professional Conduct Committee (1-2 positions)

The PCC is looking for 1-2 committee members. The PCC reviews and investigates complaints submitted regarding any member of the SCPT. This includes receiving, reviewing, completing an investigation, and concluding the matter in an appropriate matter as determined by the PCC and guided by the Act, Bylaws, Standards, and Code of Ethical Conduct (including assisting in report writing upon conclusion).

The PCC meets by phone or online every 4-6 weeks for usually 1-3 hours per meeting (depending on work volume). Meetings are typically held in the evenings, but some investigation activities may need to be conducted during the day (additional compensation provided for such instances).

Compensation includes a stipend for attendance at committee meetings. The rate is \$40 for the first hour and \$20 dollars for each additional hour per meeting.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email your CV/resume highlighting relevant experience to edr@scpt.org no later than **April 30, 2024**. Questions can also be directed to the same email address.



Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists

105A – 701 Cynthia Street, Saskatoon SK, S7L6B7

p. 1.306.931.6661

Jason Vogelsang, Executive Director & Registrar, edr@scpt.org

Tammy MacSymetz, Registration and Operations Manager, operationsmanager@scpt.org

Jody Rice, Practice Advisor, practiceadvisor@scpt.org