



July 20, 2011

## **CPSA obtains court order against non-physician using the term doctor**

The Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta has approved the College's application to forbid Edmonton-based cosmetic service provider Mr. Sukhdave Seehra from using any terms that imply he is a medical doctor. An injunction was granted July 13, 2011 ordering Mr. Seehra to not represent, advertise or imply he is a regulated member of Alberta's medical profession.

"Patient safety was our biggest concern in filing the Court application," notes College Registrar Dr. Trevor Theman. "In Alberta, there are currently no restrictions on who can purchase and/or operate a laser. This situation is an unfortunate example of how important it is for the public to know the qualifications of any service provider – including someone who calls themselves a doctor."

### **Background:**

Mr. Seehra offers various cosmetic services at the Ultra Medic Laser Skin Studio in Edmonton, including laser treatments. The College received complaints from Ultra Medic clients who were dissatisfied with the care provided by Mr. Seehra. These people approached the College because they believed Mr. Seehra was a medical doctor based on statements made to them by Mr. Seehra and/or his clinic staff.

One of Mr. Seehra's clients provided the College with evidence she had received severe burns as a result of cosmetic laser treatment. She also complained to an Edmonton television reporter who determined Mr. Seehra was displaying a medical degree in his office when he had not graduated from medical school.

As Mr. Seehra is not a licensed medical doctor, the College has no jurisdiction to take disciplinary action against him. However, the College wrote to Mr. Seehra and requested he stop referring to himself as "Dr.", "doctor", or "dermatologist", or otherwise implying he was a regulated member of the medical profession. The letter advised that if Mr. Seehra did not comply, the College would seek a court order to stop him. Following receipt of the letter, Mr. Seehra continued to refer to himself as a dermatologist and the College applied to the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench for an injunction. The injunction was granted July 13, 2011.

### [Copy of Court Order](#)

*The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta licenses physicians, develops and administers standards of practice and conduct, and investigates/resolves physician-related complaints. We also provide leadership and direction on health and related policy issues such as access to services, quality improvement, patient safety and privacy.*

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