

College supports advocacy and remains neutral on call for public inquiry

College Council recently reviewed the call for a public inquiry into allegations of intimidation within Alberta's healthcare workplace. After extensive discussion, Council has decided that it is important that it remain neutral on this issue allowing Council to stay unbiased when hearing complaint appeals.

Under the *Health Professions Act*, Council acts as an appeal body. Supporting a public inquiry could be seen as an institutional bias should an allegation of physician intimidation come before Council in the future. Such bias or perception of bias could then compromise or invalidate Council's role as an appeal body.

Consistent with our strategic plan, Council endorses a well-functioning healthcare system that emphasizes quality patient care and performance measurement.

We also subscribe to the CanMEDS competencies for physicians, one of which is the role of advocate. We support a just and trusting culture in which physicians and all healthcare workers are encouraged to report close calls and adverse events, and to speak out responsibly on behalf of their patients.

To this end, the College will work with other organizations, including the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Health & Wellness and other healthcare organizations and regulators to create a culture of responsible advocacy. This will help ensure Alberta's health system is truly open and transparent and moves forward.

More information on College initiatives in this area will be shared with physicians in the near future.

Council of the CPSA
May 11, 2011

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College of
Physicians
& Surgeons
of Alberta