

## COVID-19 | NSPA Update – May 7th, 2020

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### **Following our AGM, the NSPA would like to provide an update to members.**

This past weekend, the NSPA hosted our annual general meeting (AGM) and a town hall, primarily focused on addressing the concerns of members during the COVID19 pandemic. We were pleased to see so many of our members able to attend and participate.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Katherine Harman on being awarded this year's NSPA Award of Excellence. I also want to acknowledge and thank Patricia Connors, our Executive Director, for the time and effort she put in to making the AGM a success. Further appreciation goes to Candice Brewer, our administrative assistant, and all board members for the work they've put in to have a successful AGM.

Understandably, not every physiotherapist was able to attend this weekend, but we feel that it is important that everyone be made aware of some of the concerns that were raised this weekend and what actions we are taking.

### **Recent actions of the NSPA include:**

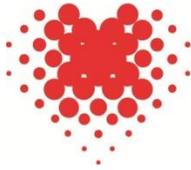
1. We've been in contact with the department of Public Health regarding the roles that physiotherapists can play in helping with the ongoing pandemic. In particular, their request that physiotherapists be asked to assist in Northwood during the last month.
2. We've sent two letters to the department of Health and Wellness during the pandemic. The first dated March 19th, highlighted the role that physiotherapists could play in supporting their initial efforts. The second, dated May 1st, was focused on the role that physiotherapists can play in the future of COVID-19 as we begin to consider the future.
3. We've collaborated with the Nova Scotia Chiropractic College to send a joint letter to the Department of Health and Wellness, requesting that we be involved in the planning for re-opening clinics, and to facilitate access to PPE for clinics as they open.
4. We've sent a letter to Doctors Nova Scotia, highlighting that physiotherapists are providing telehealth and how physiotherapists can support physicians in the coming weeks. We also offered to provide resources and information for their members on these topics.
5. We've been in regular contact with the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists, Canadian Physiotherapy Association, and other Provincial Branches to share information, and resources

### **Questions from AGM and Town Hall**

1. Has the NSPA been in contact with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer in regards to the timing of return for our industry? How much notice will clinic owners be given prior to a date of reopening?

A. We have been in contact with the Department of Public Health; however, it has only been recently that the Government has discussed a reopening plan. We confirmed with the NSCP that they have not engaged in any discussions to this point, but we have sent a letter requesting that we be involved in the reopening planning in some capacity. Our main focus is on availability of PPE, and guidelines and rules for delivery of care. Our aim is to have clinics

owners receive a minimum of 1 week of notice prior to opening; however, we hope to impress upon the government



that the more time clinics owners have, the more successful the reopening will be.

2. How will the NSPA promote the reopening of clinics?

A. We are early in this process as we don't yet know when clinics will be able to reopen or what requirements they will have. We have discussed the possibility of hiring an outside consultant to produce content for the reopening; however, we share the concern with members that this may require a lot of resources (both financial and human), and may not be utilized as clinics will also be creating and sharing their own content. If we were to put resources towards this initiative we would need to know that the majority of clinics would want this done and use the resources and content we paid to have created. All that said, we will be putting out social media content once clinics are reopening, and using resources from CPA as well

3. How will the NSPA instill confidence in the public once clinics are reopening?

A. This is a shared challenge but it will be a significant part of the marketing and advertising that we do once we have a better idea of the reopening plan. We are likely to focus on being a regulated profession and how infection control is an area of our practice.

4. Will the NSPA be able to assist with sourcing PPE?

A. We don't intend to be the source of PPE but are hoping to facilitate the procurement of PPE for clinicians in Nova Scotia. CPA has worked diligently with OrthoCanada and other retailers to provide access to PPE; however, stocks remain low. We've been in contact with local retailers and providers of PPE but the majority of stock is earmarked for the public health system. In our letter to the Department of Health and Wellness, we've made a specific request that they support us in procuring PPE for members.

**We can appreciate the concern of members as we begin to move in the next phase of the pandemic in Nova Scotia. We are going to continue working to represent the interests of Physiotherapists in both the public and private sector. To help us in our work we ask that you consider:**

1. Joining one of our committees! We now have 3 committees, each with individual mandates. The Public Relations Committee, Members Services Committee, and Advocacy Committee. If you have interest in joining any of these committees please email them individually, at the following addresses:  
[prchair@physiotherapyns.ca](mailto:prchair@physiotherapyns.ca), [advocacy@physiotherapyns.ca](mailto:advocacy@physiotherapyns.ca), [memberservices@physiotherapyns.ca](mailto:memberservices@physiotherapyns.ca).
2. Contact us with information and suggestions. As highlighted during the AGM and Town Hall, we are a group of volunteers and are limited in our time. We're always open to hearing suggestions on actions to take or to receive information and resources from members. We may not act on every suggestion, but we review and consider everything we receive.

Lastly, I want to congratulate our newest board members Laura Lundquist, Evan Belyea, and Jonathan Knight. We want to thank all of you for volunteering to join the NSPA!

For anyone that missed the AGM this weekend, please take some time to review the Annual Report, and send any questions or concerns along to [info@physiotherapyns.ca](mailto:info@physiotherapyns.ca)

All the best,

Stephen Richey, PT  
NSPA President