



A full plate for the new Council

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WELCOME TO THE summer issue of *College Matters*, our first of the year with our new

Council, and the start of the second half of my term as President. The recent election for Councillors was very successful, with a full slate of candidates and good voter turnout. Thanks to all of the candidates who put their names forward, and to those who took the time to vote!

I welcome our new Councillors Alexandra de Jong Westman and Jocelyn White, returning Councillor Raychl Lukie, and new Executive Vice-President Garry Alexander. I thank Ross Murray for his 4 years of service on the College Council and Warren Warttig for 8 years of service. Fortunately, Warren remains involved, as the Chair of the Audit and Practice Review Committee.

I also welcome our new Lay Councillor Cairine Green, who joins our current Lay Members David Hughes and Maureen McDermid on Council. Lay Members are appointed by the government; their presence on our Council and committees assures the government and the public that the College continues to meet its public-interest mandate. I look forward to working with the Council over the next year; we've got a lot of exciting projects to tackle! Look for information over the next few months on a new Practice Review program, online CPD tracking, online ethics training, and the potential for new categories of membership, among many other initiatives.

This issue of *College Matters* covers a lot of ground. Included are updates on regulations that have the potential

to impact members, such as the Qualified Persons Initiative and the new *Environmental Mitigation Policy and Procedures*, to information on the College's position on advocacy, a report on our very successful AGM and Conference held in May, along with a brief update on the recent members' survey and the Council's strategic planning session that helped set priorities for 2016-2018.

An important article in this issue of *College Matters* is notification that, after 7 years at a static fee schedule, the Council is recommending a dues increase. The Council feels that a dues increase is necessary in order for us to continue advancing our mandate to ensure our members are qualified and accountable, achieve our strategic goals of more transparent accountability mechanisms, and increase the profile for the College. This summer we will have a referendum on a dues increase and we are asking for members to approve a revised fee schedule. See the special article on pages 6 and 7 in this issue for more information.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and productive summer! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or suggestions to help your College advance its strategic objectives, please *contact the College office.* 

Dr. Vanessa Craig, RPBio

