

**Registrar's Message to 2022 Annual General Meeting**  
**by Colleen J. Braun**  
**May 18, 2022**

Good afternoon, everyone,

It is a pleasure to speak to you today. I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend the Annual General Meeting of your regulatory body. The College thanks you for your commitment to the profession and for keeping the public safe. Having been with the college for only a few months, and in my interactions with you, I can already say that I see your dedication and passion for your professions and that you nurture and care for your patients and clients with the utmost respect, responsibility, and professionalism. While there have been continued challenges through the pandemic, we continue to be thankful to our healthcare professionals for navigating difficult issues as they arise.

I joined CASLPM in late December understanding the needs of the College to move forward into the post-pandemic world and to ensure the protection of the public and service to registrants.

There were multiple challenges to meet in the office due to staffing issues that were lingering from 2021. I am pleased to advise you that we have a full team ready to support you and make necessary changes to our processes and service.

We retained Kristin Holt, who served as the interim registrar in the latter half of 2022. Kristin is working as a part-time consultant leading a project related to cross-provincial registration and has provided advice and guidance in using and making changes to Alinity, our online registrant portal. More on the cross-provincial application and registration process will be sent to registrants early in the summer.

Sheryl Slosower remains with CASLPM as a part-time consultant and is working with the Continuing Competency Committee to build the online self-assessment tool and rollout the jurisprudence module, which is a requirement for registrants in 2022 and new applicants going forward.

We wish to thank both Kristin and Sheryl for their service to the college and ensuring that we meet our obligations to you as registrants and to the greater public.

The office also retained the services of Donna St. Vincent, who became a permanent employee in January. Donna has been the college's steady hand, providing administrative support and overseeing numerous office projects to help us provide more efficient service to our stakeholders.

Early in 2022, Sukhmeet Kaur was hired as the Deputy Registrar and quickly adapted to the fast pace of the office and to the research and knowledge required for specific questions that we receive on a near daily basis. This spring we fielded numerous calls for reinstatement, and each case brought new questions forward and required well thought out process. Sukhmeet is also fielding multiple requests from international and local applicants. To say that she has "hit the ground running" would be an understatement.

I am grateful to have such a knowledgeable and invested team to provide historical and topical expertise to the college.

I would like to thank our council for their oversight through difficult transitions. Your elected council was involved not only with steering the direction of the college but also became instrumental in the day-to-day operational of the college. In particular, Heather Shpak worked tirelessly as the Council President, not only to keep the office running, but to develop a deep understanding of the needs of the office. Heather continues to provide advice and mentorship regularly to me and staff. You can be assured that Council is dedicated to their roles in advancing the professions of Audiology and Speech-Language pathology.

Moving to CASLPM's financial obligations, I would like to provide a brief overview of deviations from budget in 2021 that you may have seen in the annual report. You will also be addressed by our accountant, Dean Jenkyns, later in this meeting should any questions arise regarding the 2021 financial statements.

For the majority of 2021, there was minimal staff at the College, which resulted in a significant over-budget in salaries. Some of this was offset by payments made to consultants as the college worked to maintain our obligations for registration and renewal. We expect this budget item to align going forward as we anticipate continuing to have a full complement of staff in place.

In 2021, a consulting firm was retained to assist with questions arising due to the national exam issues. While we do not anticipate need for support such as this in the future; we may from time-to-time request additional legal, communications, financial, or other professional advice to augment our office experience and ensure that we continue on a path that best serves the public interest.

Related to professional services, there were several issues that required legal review in 2021. Legal costs fluctuate depending on issues arising such as complaints, contract and policy review, and training for our Council. Already in 2022, our lawyer has provided advice to me on personnel contracts, various processes in the office, regulatory matters, and to our complaints committee.

Finally, I have had the pleasure of working with regulators in Manitoba and throughout Canada. My colleagues overseeing other professions and those throughout Canada working in the field of audiology and speech-language pathology are a vast source of knowledge and experience. We share information and meet regularly to discuss a wide range of topics. Continued progress towards the national exam to practice continues to be made and while there is much work to be done, I appreciate the work of my colleagues in these matters.

I am excited to continue to advance the work of the college with the support of Council and a tremendous team in the office.

Thank you very much for your time today and please reach out to the College with any questions or concerns that you may have.