



## College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

300-669 Howe Street  
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4  
[www.cpsbc.ca](http://www.cpsbc.ca)

Telephone: 604-733-7758  
Toll Free: 1-800-461-3008 (in BC)  
Fax: 604-733-3503

### MEDIA RELEASE – June 25, 2019

## The Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC names its first-ever public member as president

**VANCOUVER, BC:** Mr. Bruce Bell has been elected president by members of the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2019. Mr. Bell is the first public member to ever serve as president of the Board.

The Board is made up of 10 peer-elected physicians and six public members appointed by the Ministry of Health. The president is responsible for ensuring that the Board fulfills its governance mandate, complies with applicable legislation and policy, and conducts its business according to the rule of law. The duties of the president include chairing board meetings, serving as ex-officio and voting member of all College committees, ensuring new board members are oriented to their role, and acting as a liaison between the Board and the registrar and CEO.

“We are proud to have a public representative as president,” said Dr. Heidi Oetter, registrar and CEO of the College. “Public members bring a unique perspective to the boardroom table, and have a strong, influential and equal voice at meetings. During the three years he has been a board member, Mr. Bell has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to serving the public interest.”

Mr. Bell is looking forward to his term as president. “I am honoured by the College Board's faith in electing a public member to serve as president. This act reflects the Board's continued desire to regulate physicians in a fair, consistent and transparent manner to ensure public safety.”

Mr. Bell was appointed to the College Board in 2016. He is a retired lawyer who currently serves as director of the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and he was a governor and past chair of North Island College. During his professional career, he was chair of a private bank for a family foundation based in the Bahamas. Prior to that, he was a senior partner with Vancouver-based Russell & DuMoulin (now Faskens). He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College's role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice across the province.

Other elected officers as of July 1, 2019 are:

- Vice president: Stephen G. Holland, MD, FRCPC
- Treasurer: Gurdeep Parhar, MD, CCFP, CIME

More information about the role of the Board and its membership is available [here](#).

-30-

**Media inquiries:**  
Communications and Public Affairs  
[communications@cpsbc.ca](mailto:communications@cpsbc.ca)