

**Participation on Council is a significant step toward giving back to the profession and can be exceptionally rewarding in your own development of leadership and governance knowledge. However, it is important to be realistic about your own abilities and responsibilities; as well as the time commitment required to be successful as a Council member.**

**You can read about the eligibility and ineligibility in the College's Bylaws, sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.**

### **What skills/characteristics make someone a successful Council member?**

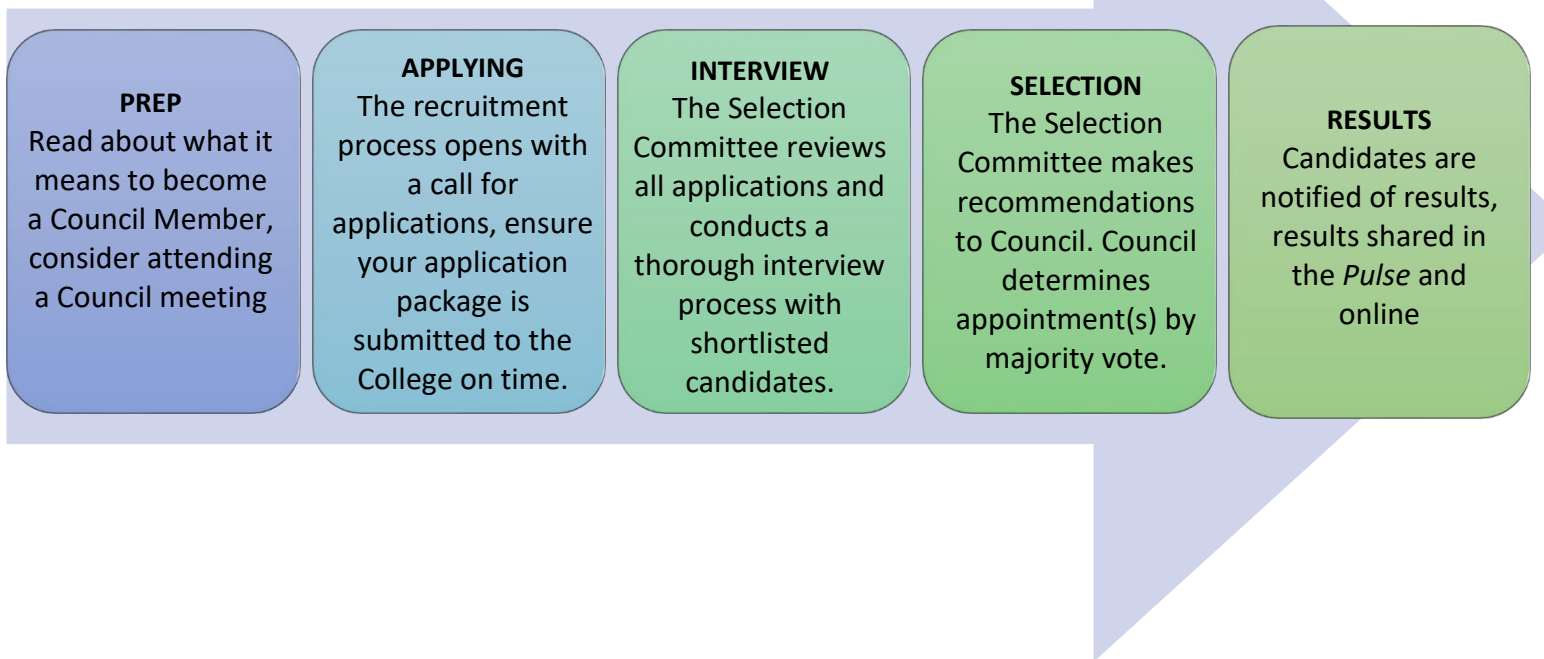
- 1. Literacy** Council members need a capacity to read and understand large amounts of text with varying levels of complexity, including legislation, policy and scientific literature in a relatively short amount of time. This greatly helps the Council member meet deadlines for reading, understanding and deciding.
- 2. Communication** Council work is largely done through discussion. Members need the ability to convey ideas and support/disagree in discussion with clear and concise language. Meaningful contributions to discussions are essential for group decision-making with tight time constraints.
- 3. Open Mind** Topics evolve over time with more information and different perspective, a potential council member needs to be able to receive input from all sources without bias or prejudice.
- 4. Analytical** Council must dissect several different pieces of legislation, policies, and briefing notes to compare information and know what is within the College's preview.
- 5. Strategic Thinking** Council members must consider information and make decisions with a view of the long-term strategy, plan and implications, rather than for short-term gratification or for popularity. Making decisions at the Council table means you may be setting things in motion that won't come to fruition for several years, which means you may not get the immediate credit for your work.
- 6. Temperance** While Council members are typically passionate about the profession and organization's goals, they must practice a great deal of restraint, maintain a calm demeanor and make decisions about potentially contentious, personally emotive or hotly debated issues collaboratively with fellow Council members.

### **What additional attributes make someone successful as a Council member?**

- 1. Willingness and interest** Genuine interest in all facets of the profession and the factors influencing it. Where your interest lies is where you will spend the time working and contributing – if you do not have an honest willingness and interest to serve the profession through day-long meetings, email communication and in your spare time; your success on Council will be limited.
- 2. Ability to devote time** Council work is not a full-time job, but you must be able to dedicate time to reading the dossier, working with your Council colleagues, building your governance knowledge and putting it to use. If you do not make the time, your unpreparedness will show to your colleagues and will likely delay decisions, disrupt conversations and derail the important work of the Council.

3. **Diversity** Council is the body that represents the entire profession, and diversity in work settings, gender expression, ethnicity, etc. helps the team hear many different perspectives.
4. **Experience** Working in different practice settings is also valuable because you are able to look at how decisions affect paramedics in all different practice settings, allowing them to not have a singular focus.

### What are the steps to becoming a Council member?



**New Council members complete governance training and attend first meeting in September.**

**FAQ: About being a Council member****How often does Council meet?**

On average, Council has between four and five, one-day meetings in the College office in Edmonton. These meetings are in person. Occasionally, teleconference participation is permitted, but it is highly recommended that you are able to attend in person.

**What if I have to miss a Council meeting?**

Your success on Council and Council's success in general depends on a firm commitment to attend from all individuals. That said, there are obviously things that may prevent you from attending (death in the family, illness). However, Council members who miss three consecutive meetings may be asked to resign their position due to their inability to serve.

**How much prep work do I have to do before the Council meetings?**

Prior to each Council meeting, you are expected to read a number of documents. The dossier for a Council meeting depends on the business that is on the agenda for that meeting. Typically, dossiers are between 50 and 100 pages of material.

**What other time commitments are there for being on Council?**

In addition to in-person meetings, you will need to be available for as-needed teleconference calls or email communication to vote on timely matters or to approve administrative requests/changes.

**How well do I have to know the *Health Professions Act*?**

The Act is a significant work and it will take some time to become familiar with it. We understand that this knowledge grows with your time on Council. You should have read the Act before your first Council meeting so that you are aware of the different sections addressed, but you are not expected to be able to cite it.

**What is a Council meeting like?**

Council observes a typical meeting structure, and generally follows Roberts Rules of Order. The business of the meeting will include reports from the President, VP of Governance, VP of Finance and Risk, CEO and Registrar. Other standing items include consent items from the Council Executive Committee and other committees. Requests for Decision and Business Cases are often presented when a significant matter must be discussed, considered and decided upon.

**How much do Council members make?**

Council members are not paid. Per diems are offered as your attendance at Council requires you to be away from your job and family. While it is not a dollar-for-dollar compensation, it is intended to recognize your contribution to the leadership of the profession.

An honorarium/per diem is offered to each Council member. Officers are expected to be more involved in the activities of the College, which is why these positions are eligible for additional compensation as per the Council and Chair Compensation Policy