

– MRCNS Council Meeting –
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 21, 2024; 1:00pm-3:00pm Atlantic
ONLINE

MRCNS Council Members in Attendance:

T. Pickart RM, Chair	A. Houstoun MD
T. Crawford RN, Vice-Chair	P. Anderson
K. Wallace, Treasurer	

Regrets:

J. Kearns

Staff in Attendance:

J. Wright, Registrar/ED	J. Neil, Executive Assistant
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0. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions (no attachment) (T.Pickart)

The meeting was called to order by T.Pickart, at 1:09 p.m. AST.

1. Approval of Agenda (ATCH 1) (T.Pickart)

T.Crawford made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. / with edits.

Moved by: T.Crawford **Seconded by:** P.Anderson

No objections. **Approved.**

2. Approval of Jan 22, 2024 MRCNS Council Meeting Minutes (ATCH 2) (T.Pickart)

Members reviewed the minutes from the January 22, 2024 Council meeting.

P.Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Moved by: P.Anderson **Seconded by:** T.Crawford

No objections. **Approved.**

3. Financial Update - Fiscal Year-End (ATCH 3,4,5) (J.Wright)

The 2023-24 fiscal year officially ended on March 31, 2024.

Jenny reported that our finances are in good shape and we are awaiting the final statements from the accountant. The accountant has reviewed the records to date and is satisfied that financial policies are being followed.

4. HR Committee Update (no attachment) (T.Crawford)

The HR Ctee met twice in March to complete the performance review of J.Wright. It has been a hallmark year for the Council and Jenny has successfully led the council through many changes. She has demonstrated leadership during the move away from govt and in setting up the Council as an independent organisation. The Council is also pleased with her work and collaboration with the NSCN towards amalgamation.

The HR Ctee also recommended and approved an annual 2% increase in salary for MRCNS staff.

The HR committee also recommended if financially feasible an additional 3% salary increase based on merit for the Executive Director.

5. Board Composition (J.Wright)

- Letters of Re-Appointment (Effective date: April 4, 2024 / Term: 3 years, expiring April 3, 2027)
 - T. Pickart, RM
 - J.K. Wallace
 - A. Houstoun, MD
- New Appointee CONFIRMED
 - Public Rep - Jolinne Kearns
(Effective date: April 4, 2024 / Term: 3 years, expiring April 3, 2027)
- New Appointee expected
 - Registered Midwife Rep - Mianh Lamson, RM
(expected to be officially appointed in June 2024)

Council made motions for re-appointment of the positions noted:

As per MRCNS bylaws, the Council will reappoint the **Chair**

MOTION

J.K. Wallace made a motion to reappoint T.Pickart as Chair for this year.

Moved by: J.K.Wallace **Seconded by:** T.Crawford **Vote:** Unanimous

No objections. **Approved.**

As per MRCNS bylaws, the Council will reappoint the **Registration Committee**

MOTION

T.Crawford made a motion to appoint T.Pickart, J.K.Wallace, and A.Houstoun to the **Registration Committee** for a two year term.

Moved by: T.Crawford **Seconded by:** P.Anderson **Vote:** Unanimous

No objections. **Approved.**

As per MRCNS bylaws, the Council will reappoint the **Registration Appeals Committee**

MOTION

J.K.Wallace made a motion to appoint T.Crawford, Dr. A.Houstoun, and P.Anderson to the **Registration Appeals Committee** for a two year term.

Moved by: J.K.Wallace **Seconded by:** T.Pickart **Vote:** Unanimous

No objections. **Approved.**

6. Annual General Meeting Planning (J.Wright)

The Council We will hold its first AGM in July of this year.

Debi Peveril the accountant will present the financial statements and be available to answer questions from the membership and public.

The Council will vote on whether to retain the accountant in their current role.

Jenny presented options for the AGM to be held online or in-person for Council consideration. The AGM must be held in July according to our schedule with DHW as per our funding agreement.

Options to consider: Mon July 29, Wed July 31

All council members agreed that we will host the AGM online via ZOOM to encourage greater participation from the registered midwives and the public.

Actions:

Contact and confirm availability of the accountant to attend one of the above dates.

Jenny to develop an agenda. Notify and invite our registrants.

7. Revised Scope of Practice (ATCH 6,7,8) (J.Wright)

J.Wright provided an update regarding the consultation process for the revised scope of practice. Consultation was offered to members, NSCN and the public and the Network. Feedback has been received and incorporated into the current draft of the revised scope of practice.

It was noted that the draft document was sent to the Network and we did not receive any feedback or concerns. Many useful recommendations were made by D.Bungay from NSCN, some of which we have incorporated to keep language clear and direct. The midwives were generally very happy with the draft and most items have been addressed. The one point of contention revolves around “expanded” scope of practice and definitions that we are bound by in our new general regulations.

T.Pickart asked to remove everything after “interprofessional colleagues” within the document.

T.Crawford asked to remove “and other health care professionals.” from the sentence on pg 2. Develop individualised care plans in consultation with clients.

Action: Notify registrants and post new Approved Scope of Practice to [Resources Library](#) when ready to implement and all government / network partners have been notified.

MOTION

A.Houstoun made a motion for the Council to approve the **Revised Scope of Practice** with the edits mentioned above.

Moved by: A.Houstoun **Seconded by:** T.Crawford **Vote:** Unanimous

No objections. **Approved.**

8. ANSM Proposal to MRCNS for Midwife-led abortion care (T.Pickart)

Jenny explained to the Council that the proposal submitted by ANSM would be acceptable under our newly approved Scope of Practice and recommended that we approve the policy as a board.

T.Pickart asked if we need to add a policy or update the Policy on Prescribing, Ordering and Administering Drugs in order to enact this ability for RMs while ensuring we protect the public.

A.Houstoun, MD suggested this is a specific competency (not entry to practise competency) and training programs must be suited to ensure RMs will be competent to prescribe and respond to follow-up complications.

T.Crawford would like to know the timeline of implementing the new revised scope of practice based on regulatory changes and the period in which we are bound by both old and new regulations.

J.Wright is planning to share our revised scope of practice with Mark Lucas at DHW. We do not expect them to challenge the council on the revised scope of practice.

The language of our old Scope of Practice would identify this as “expanded” scope.

UBC offers an accredited course that Council could accept as continued competency.

The council agrees that midwife led abortion care will fall under the current provision of care in the normal course of pregnancy. To enact this type of care, we will need to develop a policy defining the education required for midwives, and the obligation of the midwife to ensure the client has access to care (referral), regardless of the midwife’s personal beliefs about abortion.

Action: Jenny to review policy of BCCNM and others, and review education programs in order to develop a draft policy. Jenny will also seek legal advice once the policy is drafted and share progress with the Council.

9. Amalgamation Steering Ctee (J.Wright)

MRCNS - J.Wright, J. Neil

NSCN - Heather Totten, Doug Bungay, Caroline Wolfe Stewart, Sue Smith (CEO retiring June 14, 2024)

The steering committee met with Marjorie Hickey to help define her role since she represents both MRCNS and NSCN. She made it clear that she will guide both organisations through the amalgamation process and that her role is to represent the new joint organisation..

M.Hickey is drafting an MOU defining the guiding principles of how we will work together.

M.Hickey recommended MRCNS and NSCN complete the “due diligence” process of amalgamation with external counsel at our own expense. This is the only area in which conflict could arise, and this is the suggested way to avoid it.

T.Pickart reminded J.Wright that the support of the board is available if needed.

10. Profession Specific Regulation Ctee (J.Wright)

J.Wright, J. Neil, Matt Lafond (outside consultant)

M. Lafond suggested that we do not begin drafting until phase 1 is complete and other regulatory bodies can share a template, demonstrating language that the government has agreed to.

Related, J.Wright received notice that MRCNS has been selected to participate in the QAP pilot program.

All regulators must have a QAP. Regulators will have to submit every 3-5 years.

J.Wright also notified Council that General Regulations should be approved by the end of May.

11. Old Minutes (In-Camera)

Approved minutes from January 9, 2024 and January 22, 2024 were originally in-camera (private) due to the sensitive nature of news regarding the amalgamation of NSCN and MRCNS. The council agreed that we can now release these minutes and post to the website and public.

MOTION

T.Crawford made a motion to release the approved meeting minutes from the two previous meetings to the public. The news of amalgamation is now public knowledge.

Moved by: T.Crawford **Seconded by:** P.Anderson **Vote:** Unanimous

No objections. **Approved.**

12. Other

13. Closing

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- **Wednesday, May 29, 2024 – 6:00pm-7:30pm (AST) – ONLINE**
Cultural Safety & Humility Training Event hosted by RHPN (The Network)
- **TBD – July 2024 – Time – ONLINE**
MRCNS Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- **Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 1:00-3:00pm (AST) – ONLINE – Zoom**
Quarterly Council Meeting