

April 19th 2021

An Impact Statement On Behalf of NB Resident Physiotherapists

To all College members,

As many of you are aware the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) has failed to successfully deliver a clinical exam since November 2019. The clinical exam has been cancelled on three separate occasions, with the most recent cancellation occurring March 20th 2021 when many candidates awoke on test day only to find out the virtual platform had crashed. We are now left with no date, timeline or guidance of when the next exam will be available to be challenged.

The recurring cancellations of these exams and constant changes in exam format have begun to have a substantial impact on us as candidates. We have taken time away from children, partners, family members and friends to study, only to have the exams be continuously cancelled and as a result we are starting to feel burnt out. In a year that can be easily characterized as “difficult” we as residents have had to undergo an immense amount of stress as we continue to prepare tirelessly for an exam which continues to be delayed. It feels like a constant, black cloud over your head which follows you wherever you go. We prepare and do our part to get rid of this black cloud but it continues to taunt us in ways that many could never have imagined. From weight loss due to constant stress and anxiety, to increased thoughts of loneliness and isolation, to feelings of worthlessness and despair. We are the future of our profession and we are now left asking ourselves, are we really wanted?

We have graduated from Master’s programs, passed the written PCE and have been working as frontline health care workers during an ongoing global pandemic. We are putting our lives on the line everyday in an effort to lend a helping hand to someone who has seeked out our services, yet we somehow still need to prove our worth and competence to the College even when some have been working for over a year.

We by no means envisioned that this is how we would be welcomed into the profession. The attempt to advance and start our careers has been met with red tape bureaucracy and an age old mentality of “we have always done it this way”. This fixed mindset is one in which growth does not occur, and is one which is at the detriment of patient care. Innovation, creativity and willingness to accept change from the CPTNB are needed now before we lose more of our young professionals.

Ask yourself, after hearing our stories, would you as a parent encourage your child to enter our profession?

Sincerely,

Physiotherapy Residents of NB