



College of Medical  
Laboratory Technologists  
of Ontario

# FOCUS

A CMLTO newsletter for members

2020 - Issue 2

## Message from the President, Jon Fawcett, MLT



The 2020 National Medical Laboratory Week from April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a memorable one for all med lab professionals. Many of you experienced something similar in 2003 during SARS. MLTs are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight and are key to protecting the public by delivering high-quality and competent care.

While you may not be able to socialize and celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week with your colleagues outside of the lab, your efforts are being recognized throughout the healthcare system and by the public. Your contributions are helping Ontario conquer the pandemic and ensure public trust.

Since the CMLTO continues to operate virtually, the May Council meeting will now be conducted virtually and not in-person. The College is committed to meeting its regulatory responsibilities so Statutory Committee meetings are also being held virtually until further notice.

In recognition of the pandemic's burden on MLTs, the deadline for the Call for Nominations for Election to Council has been extended to **Friday, June 19, 2020, at 5:00 pm**. Please click on the image for further details.



[Download a PDF of this issue.](#)

For past issues, click [here](#).

**Do you have what it takes to help lead the CMLTO?**  
Call for nominations for election to the CMLTO Council

**Help shape the future of healthcare in Ontario!**  
The CMLTO Council invites engaged, motivated MLTs to run for Council election.

**Can you tick all the boxes?**  
The CMLTO is looking for MLTs who will be effective Council members. Their skills, traits, and knowledge should include:

- the ability to work with a group to make decisions.
- the ability to understand and follow governance processes.
- a willingness to devote time and effort to the work of the CMLTO and the Council.
- good communication skills.
- an understanding that the goal of the CMLTO is to serve and protect the public.

The Council governs within a Policy Governance® framework. Members should be aware of the CMLTO mission and vision, the Strategic Framework, its regulations, and the Consolidated Bylaws.

The CMLTO exists to protect the public's right to safe, high-quality healthcare. The CMLTO Council is the College's governing body; it establishes the College's strategic direction and the outcomes that will lead self-regulation forward in the interest of public safety.

As a Professional Member of Council your duties will include collaborating with MLTs and Public Members to:

- ensure the public receives quality medical laboratory services from competent and ethical professionals in accordance with the legislation
- establish CMLTO's strategic direction and the outcomes that will lead it to achieve its public protection mandate
- contribute to CMLTO's governance to form policy direction, influence strategy and operations, and monitor results and progress on policy achievement and compliance.


The deadline for election nomination forms to be received by the CMLTO is Friday, June 19, 2020, 5:00pm.

Elections will be held this year for the following districts:

**District 2** – Central West Region (Term: Jan 5, 2021 – Dec 31, 2023)  
**District 4** – Central East Region (Term: Jan 5, 2021 – Dec 31, 2023)

A special election for an existing Council vacancy in **District 7** – North West Region (Term: Date elected – Dec 31, 2021)

Visit our website at [www.cmlto.com](http://www.cmlto.com) to view eligibility criteria, download a copy of the nomination form, and read more about the CMLTO Council election process.



College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario  
Contact the CMLTO Executive Office at [executiveoffice@cmlto.com](mailto:executiveoffice@cmlto.com)  
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Help shape the future of healthcare in Ontario! The Council establishes the CMLTO's strategic direction and the outcomes that will lead self-regulation forward in the interest of public safety. The CMLTO invites you to be part of this process by seeking appointment for the Academic Member position on Council.

A member is eligible for appointment to the Council as the Academic Member if they meet the requirements set out in Section 20 of the CMLTO Consolidated Bylaws, which can be found [here](#) (PDF) This includes the provision that the member's primary employment is to teach a course of study in Medical Laboratory Technology accredited by Accreditation Canada's Equal Canada program.

To be considered for appointment, please submit a brief letter outlining your reasons for seeking the appointment and the value you would bring to the CMLTO Council, accompanied by a copy of your current resume, to [executiveoffice@cmlto.com](mailto:executiveoffice@cmlto.com).

**The deadline for Academic Member applications to be received by the College is Friday, June 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm.**



### Message from the Registrar & CEO, Kathy Wilkie, BHA, MLT

Since March 18, 2020, The CMLTO has been operating as a virtual office with the premises at 25 Adelaide Street East, closed until further. During this time the College's focus has been on conducting its regulatory responsibilities first and foremost.

As noted below, all Registration, Quality Assurance, Professional Conduct services are still being provided within normal customer service standards. The Spring Quality Assurance Program audit cycles have been deferred at this time.

CMLTO staff members have been collaborating with the Ministry of Health regarding researching the suitability of medical laboratory candidates who have volunteered via its [Workforce Matching Portal](#).

I have been meeting virtually with my colleagues on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Alliance of Medical Laboratory Professionals Regulators (CAMLPR) to discuss issues we are all facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the early end of the school year for some MLT educational programs.

CAMLPR members have also been providing information and consultation to the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) regarding its provision of the national certification exam during the pandemic.

Providing service to our medical laboratory technology professionals and to all of our sector stakeholders continues in order to protect the public together.

As a medical laboratory professional, has the pandemic changed your job responsibilities?

Yes

[Select](#)

No

[Select](#)

Have you been redeployed within the lab?

Yes

[Select](#)

No

[Select](#)

### The CMLTO office will continue to operate virtually until further notice

To ensure the health and safety of its staff, volunteers, and system partners, and to support health protection in the greater community, the CMLTO is making every effort to provide uninterrupted service efficiently and effectively. However, CMLTO requests your patience if there is a lag in service or responses.



At this time, the CMLTO encourages you to use email to communicate with the College. [Click here](#) for staff and departmental email addresses. If you do leave voice messages, please include an email address to ensure that you receive a response in a

timely manner. The CMLTO is only able to accept mail delivered by Canada Post at this time. No in-person deliveries can be accommodated until further notice.

All CMLTO-hosted in-person meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The College will provide updates about changes to its operations on the [cmlto.com](http://cmlto.com) homepage and via e-blasts to members and stakeholders, as necessary. Members should ensure that they have entered correct email addresses into their profiles at <https://www.cmlto-onlineservices.com/>.

The College is endeavouring to maintain business as usual in order to fulfill its public protection mandate.

## CMLTO Registration services

Although the CMLTO is operating a virtual office, all Registration-related functions are operating normally, and within normal service standards. This includes processing new applications, reinstating former members or changing registration class for existing members. All such applications and requests continue to be assessed against the registration requirements defined in Ontario Regulation 207/94 under the *Medical Laboratory Technology Act, 1991*.

Applications for reinstatement of membership may be made at [www.cmlto-onlineservices.com](http://www.cmlto-onlineservices.com).

For detailed information about registration requirements for both Practising and Non-practising classes, [click here](#) (PDF).



## CMLTO Quality Assurance Program (QAP)

All QAP-related functions are operating normally, and within normal service standards. Please note that the Spring 2020 QAP audit cycles have been deferred in recognition of the extraordinary workplace demands placed upon MLTs at this time. However, members must continue to meet their ongoing Quality Assurance obligations including maintaining an up-to-date Professional Portfolio. Questions may be emailed to [qualityassurance@cmlto.com](mailto:qualityassurance@cmlto.com).

## CMLTO Professional Conduct

All Professional Conduct functions are operating normally, and within normal service standards. All MLTs are expected to meet their professional obligations at this time and continue to update their CMLTO member profiles (i.e., changes to personal and employment information).

Employers are required to file [Mandatory Reports](#) with the CMLTO if they terminate an MLT's employment, suspend an MLT, or restrict an MLT's practice for reasons of professional misconduct, incompetence, or incapacity. [Click here](#) for more information and email questions to [professionalconduct@cmlto.com](mailto:professionalconduct@cmlto.com).



## Call for volunteers to pilot the updated Quality Assurance Program

The Quality Assurance Program (QAP) is looking to recruit volunteers interested in pilot-testing the updated Professional Portfolio and/or Practice Review. The goal of pilot-testing is to identify potential program and resource improvements. If you are interested, you can participate in one or both pilots.

Volunteers must be Practising CMLTO members. The selected volunteers will represent various disciplines, roles, and number of years of practice. **MLTs who volunteer for, and complete a QAP pilot, will be excluded from the 2020 audit cycle.**

**If you are interested, please click [here](#) to complete a short survey.** This volunteer opportunity closes on May 31, 2020. All volunteers will be contacted no later than June 12, 2020. If selected, volunteers are required to review the CMLTO Confidentiality and Privacy policy and sign a Confidentiality agreement prior to participating in the pilot(s).

Please click [here](#) to review more information related to the QAP update.

## Transfusion Science Practice Guidelines under review: have your say!

The CMLTO employs a thorough review process for professional practice resources. The first step is to determine the usefulness of these resources to MLTs and to the laboratory.

The Guidelines for Medical Laboratory Technologists Practising in Transfusion Science, which can be found [here](#), are due to be reviewed in 2020. To that end, the CMLTO asks MLTs whose main area of practice is transfusion science to complete a short survey. The responses will help the CMLTO to determine the utility of the guideline to MLTs and if the same information is offered through other external guidelines.

**The survey, which should take less than five minutes to complete, can be found [here](#). The survey will be open until May 15, 2020.**

The results will help CMLTO plan its next steps in the review process for this guideline.





## Voluntary Roster renewal period underway

On February 18, 2020, the CMLTO sent out notifications of 2020 Annual Voluntary Roster renewal to its affiliates. The 2020 Annual Voluntary Roster renewal began on March 1, 2020. Affiliates who renew after Thursday, April 30, 2020, must pay a total of \$67.80 (\$50.00+\$10.00 late fee+\$7.80 HST) to remain on the Voluntary Roster, and use the designation "Registered Medical Laboratory Technician."

To access the Voluntary Roster renewal process please visit: [www.cmlto-onlineservices.com](http://www.cmlto-onlineservices.com). For questions about the 2020 Voluntary Roster of Registered Medical

Laboratory Technicians renewal, please email [registration@cmlto.com](mailto:registration@cmlto.com).

## Administrative fees for registration verification services have increased

As announced in FOCUS 2020, Issue 1, Administrative fees for registration verification services increased on April 1, 2020, to reflect current business costs.

Letter of Standing & Verification of Professional Licensure / Visa Screen – USA fees, effective April 1, 2020:

- \$44.25 + 13% HST \$5.75 = \$50.00 (members)
- \$132.74 + 13% HST \$17.26 = \$150.00 (former members)

## Special information regarding applications for registration

The CMLTO recognizes that in the current COVID-19 pandemic, applicants for registration may encounter some unique circumstances as they prepare their supporting documentation. The purpose of this letter [Click here](#) to read or download a letter (PDF) that provides some options to address some of the current issues applicants may encounter. The fillable [Guarantor's form](#) (PDF) is online now.

The College has notified academic institutions offering MLT education programs to advise them of the options. Applicants should email their questions to [registration@cmlto.com](mailto:registration@cmlto.com).

## MLT health human resources

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CMLTO is in contact and working with members of the Canadian Alliance of Medical Laboratory Professionals Regulators (CAMLPR), the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) and the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) to continually monitor the province's health human resource needs.

To support Ontario's dedicated frontline healthcare providers who are working hard during these unprecedented and challenging times, the MOH is looking for additional experienced healthcare providers to help provincial efforts to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.

The MOH is looking for healthcare providers who may be working part-time and want to, and are prepared, to increase their work hours or former healthcare providers who are retired, or on inactive status with their regulatory college, and are prepared to return to employment.

These individuals include:

- Current and former members of Ontario's regulated health professions and the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers;
- Physician assistants; and
- Personal support workers.

The website can be accessed using the following links:

In English: <http://www.healthforceontario.ca/en/M4/COVID19>

In French: <http://www.healthforceontario.ca/fr/M4/COVID19>

### COVID-19 resource links

For healthcare professionals: [Ontario Ministry of Health page](#) and [Public Health Ontario page](#) and PHO COVID-19 testing guidelines.

For the public: [Ontario Ministry of Health page](#), [Ministry of Health self-assessment tool](#).

### FOCUS feedback from the last issue of the newsletter

Did you find this issue of FOCUS informative?

**Yes - 97.7%**

**No - 2.3%**

In your role as an MLT, are you responsible for POCT in your workplace?

**Yes - 32.9%**

**No - 67.1%**



### CMLTO Victoria Day operating hours

CMLTO staff will not be working on May 18, 2020, due to the Victoria Day statutory holiday. Regular operating hours resume at 8:30 am on May 19, 2020.

**Please tell us what you think!**

Did you find this issue of FOCUS informative?

**Yes**

[Select](#)

**No**

[Select](#)

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