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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health Services

HEALTH PROFESSIONS REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

VICTORIA – Health Services Minister George Abbott today announced the appointment of a chair and 17 board members to the Health Professions Review Board (HPRB), which will have the power to review the timeliness and outcome of health regulatory college decisions.

“Each appointee brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his or her new role in ensuring the highest levels of accountability and transparency in B.C.’s health professions,” said Abbott. “Today we are delivering upon our throne speech commitment to establish a Health Professions Review Board that will ensure that health workers are able to appeal college decisions around credentialing and licensure restrictions.”

The HPRB will begin receiving applications for review in March 2009. Members will work under the leadership of newly appointed chair J. Thomas English to review decisions of health profession colleges in individual cases of registration refusal and dissatisfaction with how the colleges handle complaints from the public about college registrants.

“The 18 members of this board come from a variety of backgrounds and represent every region of this province,” said English. “We look forward to the opportunity to work together in providing British Columbians with an independent and impartial health professions review process.”

The Province will provide the HPRB with an initial \$220,000 in start-up and operational funding. Subsequent operational funding is estimated to be \$1.4 million per year.

All appointments to the HRPB are part-time, with the chair eligible to serve an initial term of three to five years and board members appointed for an initial term of two to four years. Both the chair and board members may be reappointed for additional terms at the discretion of the cabinet.

There are currently 15 self-regulated health profession colleges in British Columbia that are covered under the Health Professions Act and whose decisions may be reviewed by the HPRB starting in March 2009. These are the colleges for: dental hygienists; dental technicians; denturists; dietitians; licensed practical nurses; massage therapists; midwives; naturopathic physicians; occupational therapists; opticians; physical therapists; psychologists; registered nurses (including nurse practitioners); registered psychiatric nurses; traditional Chinese medicine practitioners; and, acupuncturists.

The creation of the HPRB stems from the Health Professions (Regulatory Reform) Amendment Act, 2008, passed by government last May, which made significant changes to the Health Professions Act. The Province is currently working to bring additional professions under the Health Professions Act and it is anticipated that by the late spring of 2009, the HPRB will also be able to review college decisions relating to chiropractors, dentists, medical practitioners, optometrists and pharmacists.


British Columbia is the second province, after Ontario, to establish an independent health professions review body.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Health Services

HEALTH PROFESSION REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

J. Thomas English, Q.C. – Chair:

Thomas English holds bachelor of commerce and bachelor of laws degrees from the University of British Columbia and a master of laws from Harvard University. He is a partner and counsel with the law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain and a former assistant/adjunct professor with the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law. English is also a member and former president of the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, president of the Vancouver Aquarium Conservation Foundation, vice-president of the BC Sports Hall of Fame foundation and chair of the Vancouver Economic Development Commission.

Michael J.B. Alexandor:

Michael Alexandor is the retired director, president and chief executive officer of Loomis Armored Car Service Ltd. and is currently a small claims mediator (civil) at with the Provincial Court of British Columbia, and governor of the Koerner Foundation. He was also recently a public representative on the board of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. Alexandor has also held positions on a number of boards and associations including, governor of VanDusen Gardens, vice president of the McGill Alumni Association and director of the Vancouver Art Gallery Association and the Vancouver Art Gallery Foundation.

Lorianna Bennett:

Lorianna Bennett was born and raised in Kamloops and continues to reside in the community where she practises law, primarily in the areas of family and personal injury. Bennett is also a family law mediator. She currently sits as a member of the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal, a member of the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation and is an elected member to the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch (CBABC). She is the past president of the Kamloops Bar Association and past chair of the CBABC.

Judith J. Berg:

Judith Berg is a counsellor and former registered nurse with the private Crossroads Counselling Group. Berg was formerly a senior occupational health consultant with Healthcare Benefit Trust and has held various positions with the Ontario provincial government. Active in the community, Berg currently serves on the Patient Safety Advisory Council and the Community Advisory Committee with Vancouver Coastal Health. She obtained her registered nursing designation from St. Paul's Hospital's School of Nursing, her bachelor of arts in political science and sociology from Simon Fraser University and her master of arts in counselling psychology and adult education from the University of British Columbia.

Valli Chettiar:

Valli Chettiar is a private practice lawyer whose practice areas include corporate/commercial law; wills, estates and trust law; and elder law. Chettiar is a former partner with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP and former general counsel to Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management Ltd. She is involved with many organizations in her community including the Racial Equality Implementation Committee, the Standing Committee on Equity and the President's Forum Program Planning Committees. Chettiar has lectured extensively in her areas of practice for various organizations including the University of British Columbia Continuing Studies, the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia and the People's Law school.

D. Marilyn Clark:

Marilyn Clark is retirement planning and pre-retirement workshops consultant and is the former director of human resources and a former manager of employee relations with the City of Vancouver. Clark serves as a director and member of the audit committee with the BC Life and Casualty Insurance Company. She has also served as a board member of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia, as chair of the Canadian pension and Benefits Conference – Pacific Region, and as president of the Canadian Cancer Society, Vancouver District.

Barbara L. Cromarty:

Barbara Cromarty holds her bachelor of laws degree from the University of British Columbia and is a partner in the law firm, Ghilarducci & Cromarty in Trail. Cromarty is the former president of the Kootenay Bar Association, former president of the Trail Family and Individual Resource Centre Society and also served as a governor on the Selkirk College board.

William J. Dodds:

William Dodds is a constable with the Saanich Police Department. He holds a bachelor of education degree from the University of Victoria and is a former teacher in the Saanich School District and a former high school teacher in the Kamloops/Thompson School District. Dodds has also volunteered as a coach with the Peninsula Lacrosse Association and Kamloops Minor Hockey.

David A. Hobbs:

David Hobbs holds a bachelor of arts degree in economics (honours) and a bachelor of laws from the University of British Columbia and is the founding partner of the law firm Hobbs Giroday. Hobbs is a former director and chair of the North Vancouver Recreation Commission and former director of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.

Victoria (Vicki) Kuhl:

Vicki Kuhl is principal for the Kuhl Consulting Group specializing in strategic communications and issues management. Kuhl previously served as a trustee on the Victoria School Board, a city councillor for the Municipality of Saanich and a member of the Capital Regional District. She has served on numerous boards and tribunals including the Saanich Police Board, Provincial Capital Commission, Canada Pension Review Tribunal and the Victoria Foundation. As a former registered nurse, Kuhl also has extensive knowledge of the health care sector.

Lori McDowell:

Lori McDowell is a self-employed consultant providing advice regarding human resource issues, including discrimination in the workplace and employment benefit matters, to various organizations. McDowell has also worked as a human resources consultant with the Coles Group, the Alexander Consulting Group and William Mercer Group. She holds a bachelor of laws degree from the University of Ottawa and was an associate lawyer with the law firm Alexander, Holburn, Beaudin & Lang. McDowell is the former chair of the Canadian Pension and Benefits Institute, Pacific Region and the former vice-chair of the pension and benefits subsection of the Canadian Bar Association B.C. branch.

Michael (Mike) J. Morris:

Mike Morris is the chief operating officer of Boreal Retreats, Ltd., a company providing wilderness experiences to an international market of corporate executives. Morris was a member of the RCMP for 32 years. In his last role as an RCMP superintendent in the North District, Morris was a key member of the RCMP's provincial senior management team and commander of the entire northern two-thirds of the province.

Maurice R. Mourton:

Maurice Mourton has over 40 years of experience in the banking industry and has held a variety of senior executive positions. These include head of human resources for the Bank of Montreal and executive director of HSBC Brasil, the third largest bank in that country. Mourton has chaired a number of boards and associations including, the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, the Children and Women's Health Centre of BC, the Canadian Dragon Boat Festival and the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network. Mourton is currently the chair of the BC Transplant Research Institute, the Arthritis Society of B.C., the Children and Women's Research Institute and the Ubiquity Bank of Canada. He has also served as a council member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and a director with Community Living BC and the Northern Trust Company.

Margaret Ostrowski, Q.C.:

Margaret Ostrowski recently retired as a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. She previously practiced law in B.C. and is a former member of the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal, Crime Victims Assistance Appeal Tribunal, and the Law Society of British Columbia's quasi-judicial panels regarding discipline matters. In her community, Ostrowski is a mentor, volunteer counsellor and member of the Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security. She is also the former chair of the College of Dental Technicians and Denturists of BC and a former director of the BC Council of Administrative Tribunals. In August 2007, Ostrowski received the Touchstone award from the Canadian Bar Associations for her accomplishments in promoting equality in the legal profession.

J. Karin Rai:

Karin Rai is a chair of a local Employment Insurance Board of Referees and a researcher and consultant for the New Westminster Police Service in the Victim Assistance Unit. Rai is also a facilitator for the Boys' and Girls' Club of Delta. She is a former-trainer for the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, a former mental health liaison counsellor for the Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society and a former director of the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia.

Helen Ray del Val:

Helen Ray del Val is the former Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission regional commissioner representing British Columbia and the Yukon. She holds her bachelor of laws degree from the University of British Columbia and practiced law with the Vancouver law firm of Koffman Kalef, was senior counsel at BC Tel and an associate at Bull Housser & Tupper. She has served as a director of the boards of Vancouver's Chinese Cultural Centre, the Wen Wei Dance Society and S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Donald L. Silversides, Q.C.:

Donald Silversides is a managing partner of the private law practice, Silversides, Merrick & McLean in Prince Rupert and practices primarily corporate and commercial law. Silversides currently serves as director of the Muks-Kum-Ol Housing Society and is a director and former president of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce. He is former director and vice chair of the Prince Rupert Port Corporation, former director of the law Foundation of B.C. and a former member of the Advisory Committee for Federal Judicial Appointments for B.C. Silversides is also a life bencher with the Law Society of British Columbia and is a former elected bencher of the society's executive committee.

Gordon Stewart:

Gordon Stewart is president of ICBA Benefit Services Ltd., a mid-sized employee benefit solutions provider and vice president of the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC, a construction industry association representing over 900 contractors across the province. Prior to joining ICBA, Stewart worked in the mineral exploration, forestry and construction sectors. He has extensive governance experience and currently serves on the Vancouver Economic Development Commission and the Canadian Labour Watch Association.

Full biographies of all members are available at www.lcs.gov.bc.ca/BRDO/currentBoards.asp.

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