



# The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

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## Le Bureau des examinateurs en pharmacie du Canada

March 26, 2025

### **Re: Retirement of the Registrar-Treasurer**

Dear PEBC Partners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we have received notice from Dr. John Pugsley of his intention to retire as Registrar-Treasurer, effective April 30, 2025.

For almost 30 years, Dr. John Pugsley has served as Registrar-Treasurer of PEBC. Under his leadership, PEBC has been at the forefront of innovation in certification internationally. Dr. Pugsley has consistently advocated for excellence in the assessment of pharmacy professionals for entry-to-practice. Recognizing the importance of public protection, Dr. Pugsley has continually strived to advance the assessment of competence to ensure the quality and competence of pharmacy professionals.

Dr. Pugsley has overseen many major milestones at PEBC, including the implementation of an OSCE, a new certification process following the introduction of pharmacy technicians as a regulated profession, and computer-based testing.

The pandemic greatly impacted competency assessment, especially that of performance examinations. Dr. Pugsley's determination to maintain the quality and integrity of PEBC's certification process was always paramount. Dr. Pugsley worked tirelessly with staff, partners, and stakeholders to support the continued administration of in-person OSCEs.

As credentialing organizations have been navigating the post-pandemic world, Dr. Pugsley has been a proponent of the continued evolution and innovation of assessments to ensure the competence of pharmacy professionals, with the exploration of virtual performance examinations, automatic item generation and artificial intelligence in item development, and the implementation of linear-on-the-fly testing (LOFT).

In 2015, Dr. Pugsley was the recipient of the Canadian Pharmacists Association Honorary Life Award. He is also an honorary member of the Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association. In 2024, Dr. Pugsley was the recipient of the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Service Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy 2024 Hall of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award.

We thank Dr. Pugsley for his dedication and leadership to PEBC over the past 30 years and wish him all the best in his retirement.

We also recognize the contributions of PEBC staff, volunteers, and stakeholders who have worked alongside Dr. Pugsley in advancing PEBC's mission.

The Board of Directors will initiate a national search to identify a new leader for PEBC. Our goal is to select a leader who will continue driving our mission forward and lead us into the next chapter of PEBC's ongoing evolution. The Board of Directors has established and delegated a committee to begin the search for new leadership at PEBC.

To ensure uninterrupted leadership, as per established policy, Deputy Registrar, Mahmoud Suleiman has agreed to serve as Acting Registrar-Treasurer during this period. Mahmoud has been with PEBC since 2016 and has been in the role of Deputy Registrar for the past three years. His responsibilities include overseeing PEBC's Credentialing, MCQ Exam Development and Technology Teams and leading the implementation of strategic initiatives at PEBC. Over the years, Mahmoud has served as John's designate in a variety of capacities.

The PEBC Board is pleased to work with Mahmoud Suleiman and the PEBC team during this transition until a permanent leadership role is appointed.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank Dr. Pugsley for his legacy at PEBC, and we look forward to continuing our work with all of you.

Sincerely,

Gabriella Wong

President, PEBC Board of Directors, on behalf of the PEBC Board of Directors