ICRS

Annual Report

Published 2025

From the Chair

Dr Wayne R Minter, Chair

As regulators, we are bound to the principle that what we do is *in the public interest*. But what does that mean?

Many scholarly articles have been written about what is in the public interest. Most conclude that there is no precise definition, nor should there be.

Determining public interest requires judgement. It depends on balancing such seemingly opposite principles as privacy vs. transparency, or free speech vs. misleading information.

Eleven years ago, the Australian Law Reform Commission studied the "*Meaning of Public Interest*," soliciting comments from authorities around the world.

The Law Institute of Victoria opined, "'Public interest' is a broad concept that is flexible enough to respond to the facts and circumstances of any particular case.

"Given that privacy is fact and context specific, it is appropriate to keep concepts such as 'public interest' broad and flexible."

What is right for the well-being of the public may be viewed differently at different times. No easy disciplinary cases come before regulatory boards. Each requires careful weighing of legal and professional expectations against individual circumstances. Yet each case also contributes toward a pattern of law which creates guideposts for practitioners.

To establish or modify regulatory frameworks requires courage and curiosity. I commend all of you who have expressed an interest in engaging in discussion at the international level. Your experience and ideas are welcome at the ICRS table.

A Few Thoughts

Donna M Cohen, Executive Director

The common goals that unite regulators are the protection of the public, and the provision of safe, ethical, and effective chiropractic care.

But we are also curious about how different governments solve the challenge of Goldilocks Regulation: **not too hard, not too soft, just right.**

This is what brings people together at the ICRS table.

These times challenge us to think in new ways:

- Can pre-chiropractic education be delivered in novel partnerships with other programs?
- How do we work in greater partnership with other healthcare providers?
- Have boards adapted their systems to fit the increasingly mobile applicant for licensure or regulation?
- What does effective lifelong learning look like?

There is **more than one way** to address these questions. Each regulatory authority has unique wisdom and experience.

Regulation has changed immensely in the four decades that I've been privileged to work with the chiropractic profession.

Today, greater focus is placed on careful assessment of professional suitability and effective remediation. The pervasive nature of the internet has led to more sophisticated professional violations, but also to a welcome sense of connection.

I can't wait to see what these caring regulatory professionals will create next, in careful service to the public and to bring out the best in chiropractors worldwide.

Our Members

REGULATORY MEMBERS

Chiropractic Board of Australia
Federation of Canadian Chiropractic
General Chiropractic Council (UK)
New Zealand Chiropractic Board

PARTNER MEMBERS

Association of Chiropractic, Malaysia
Chiropractic Association of South Africa
Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board
European Chiropractors Union
International Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Japan Chiropractic Register
World Federation of Chiropractic

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

McTimoney College of Chiropractic

About Us

Chiropractic regulation
exists in many countries
to protect the public.

- Incorporated in Canada as an international, nonprofit organization
- Established to support those jurisdictions that have legislative authority to regulate chiropractors, and
- To assist those who wish to work toward adding the appropriate regulatory structure to protect the public.

Anyone interested in the goals
of the ICRS
is welcome to attend
the Forums.

Best practices in international chiropractic regulation to protect the public interest

Milestones

2009

First meeting of those interested in international chiropractic regulation took place in Canada

2017

ICRS formally incorporated in Canada as a nonprofit, international organization

2020

The COVID-19 virus resulted in a "virtual" year, including the Annual General Meeting

2021–22

Zoom, the website, and newsletters provided the best platforms to share information, including Forums

2023–25

Patient rights & responsibilities, temporary practice, effective applications, legal status of chiropractic by country

Recent Forums

Portability, Policies & Standards, Professional Misconduct

How Do We Measure Effective Regulation?

It's All About the Data

Have Our Laws and Regulations Kept Pace with Doctor Mobility?

What is Full Regulation?

This is when a government agency has the authority to establish admission and practice standards for chiropractors as well as enforcement mechanisms to redirect or remove the practice privilege under due process.

25 countries covering 122 jurisdictions have full chiropractic regulation.

African Region
Botswana
Namibia
South Africa
Zimbabwe

Asian Region
Hong Kong – SAR China
Malaysia
Philippines
Thailand

Eastern Mediterranean Region
Cyprus
United Arab Emirates

European Region
Liechtenstein
Malta
Norway
Portugal
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom[1]

Latin American Region
Costa Rica

North American Region
Canada[2]
Puerto Rico
United States[3]
US Virgin Islands

Pacific Region
Australia[4]
Guam
New Zealand

[1] United Kingdom's General Chiropractic Council handles the regulatory responsibilities for four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

[2]Canada includes 11 regulatory authorities: ten provinces and one territory (Yukon).

[3]United States includes 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Three of the five US territories have regulatory agencies: Guam, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands – these are listed individually in this table.

[4]Australia's central regulator, the Chiropractic Board of Australia, handles most of the regulatory responsibilities for its six federated states and two territories: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, plus the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territories.

Finances

2023 Income—(Modified Accrual)	
8,000.00	Annual Dues
$8,000.00	**TOTAL**

2023 Expenses (Modified Accrual)	
4559.14	WFC Conference Expenses
646.81	Conference Registration Fee
401.86	Financial Transaction Fees
114.06	Zoom Annual Fee
9.10	Government Fees
0	Office equipment - provided by D Cohen
$5,730.97	**TOTAL**
$2,269.03	**Net Revenue Over Expenses**
	US Dollars

1 January 2023	
6,824.00	Paypal
14,539.96	Keybank
$20,972.00	**Total**

31 December 2023	
13,942.14	Paypal
14,020.85	Keybank
(4,350.00)	Pending reimb
$23,612.99	**Total**

Finances

2024 Income—(Modified Accrual)	
6,500.00	Annual Dues
$6,500.00	**TOTAL**

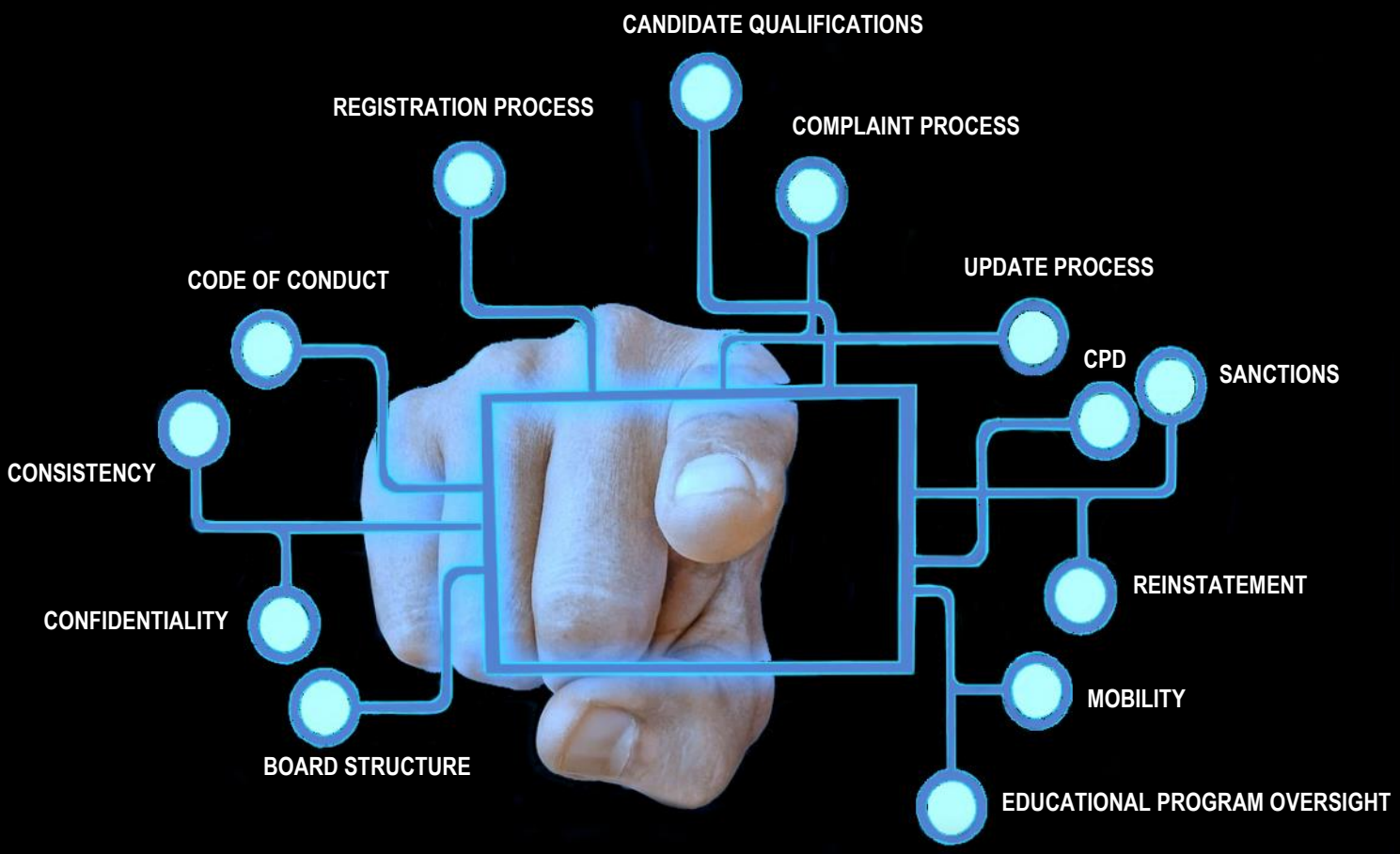
2024 Expenses (Modified Accrual)	
326.53	Financial Transaction Fees
183.89	Zoom Annual Fee
9.13	Government Fees
$519.55	**TOTAL**
$5,980.45	**Net Revenue Over Expenses**

US Dollars

1 January 2024	
13,942.14	Paypal
14,020.85	Keybank
$27,962.99	**Total**

31 December 2024	
19,135.61	Paypal
14,807.83	Keybank
(4,350.00)	Pending reimb
$29,593.44	**Total**

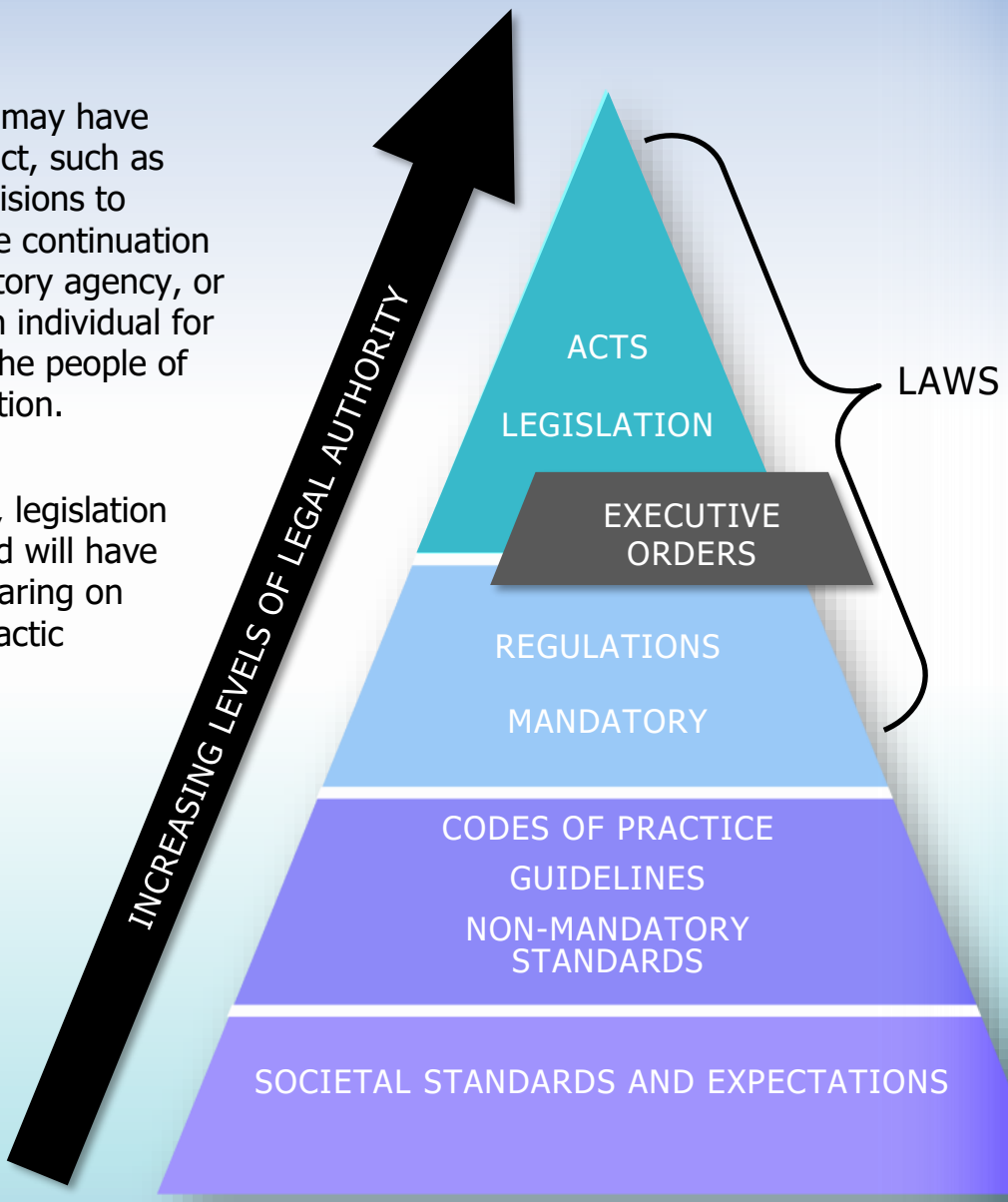
Major Components of Professional Regulation



Regulatory Authorities

Legislation may have minor impact, such as routine decisions to approve the continuation of a regulatory agency, or to honor an individual for service to the people of the jurisdiction.

More often, legislation as proposed will have genuine bearing on the chiropractic profession.



This is why it is important to understand how ideas become laws, and how laws are translated into regulations.

Issues

CHIROPRACTIC CONDUCT, PERFORMANCE, AND ETHICS

Anonymous complaints

Summary or immediate suspensions

Investigator training

Range of violations

Dealing with previous violations

Types of sanctions or other interventions

Is revocation actually permanent?

Maintaining consistency in sanctions while allowing for individual circumstances (aggravating and mitigating factors)

Monitoring / rehabilitation / assessments / examinations

Cost recovery

How much is public?

This is a snapshot of some of the pressing issues being dealt with by chiropractic regulators.

It is by no means a complete listing of the many topics that compete for the attention of regulators.

OTHER

Pediatric care

Should facilities be registered with the board?

Sale of gift certificates by chiropractors

Sale of products / CBD

Dry needling vs acupuncture

Advertising specialty training

Preceptorships: qualifications, applications

Providing services in mobile vehicles

Chiropractic Assistants

Adequate and effective board staffing

Cultural sensitivities, inclusion

CHIROPRACTIC AND ANIMALS

Multiple species

Educational and certification programs

Role of the veterinarian

Research

Issues

CORE ISSUES

Securing legislation (title protection, regulatory authority) in unregulated or underregulated jurisdictions

Practitioner mobility

Preparing for growth: new educational programs around the world

Who oversees the regulator?

Telehealth / practice without physical presence

Continual evaluation and modernization of practice requirements: laws, regs, guidelines

Is there a role for "good moral character?"

How to define discipline that is in the public interest

Identifying & engaging stakeholders / perception of the board

Transparency

Data collection, maintenance, storage, public records, security, privacy, analytics

Developing, assessing, maintaining, and demonstrating board effectiveness

Proactive actions by boards to reduce violations

Overlapping scopes of practice

Diagnostic imaging

Dealing with the media

Expedited registration/licensure

Multidisciplinary practices, corporate ownership

ASSESSMENTS

Pre and post licensure/registration

For discipline

Jurisprudence

Specialty training

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Auditing for compliance

Should CE/CPD instructors get relicensure credit for teaching their courses?

Formats: online, self-study, peer review, study groups, literature review, research, other?

Concurrent CPD courses

Program approval / standards

Key Information Platforms

Robust, informative website

HOME: ABOUT ICRS

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

RESOURCES

- OBSERVATIONS
- LEGISLATION
- NOTEWORTHY ACTIONS BY REGULATORS
- RESEARCH
- NEWS
- PEOPLE NEWS
- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FORUMS & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

LINKS

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Newsletters and bulletins

USEFUL CONCEPTS IN CHIROPRACTIC REGULATION

Leadership

Chair

Dr Wayne Minter

Chiropractic Board of Australia

Vice Chair

Dr Lisa Richard

Federation of Canadian Chiropractic

Secretary-Treasurer

Mrs Penny Bance

General Chiropractic Council
United Kingdom

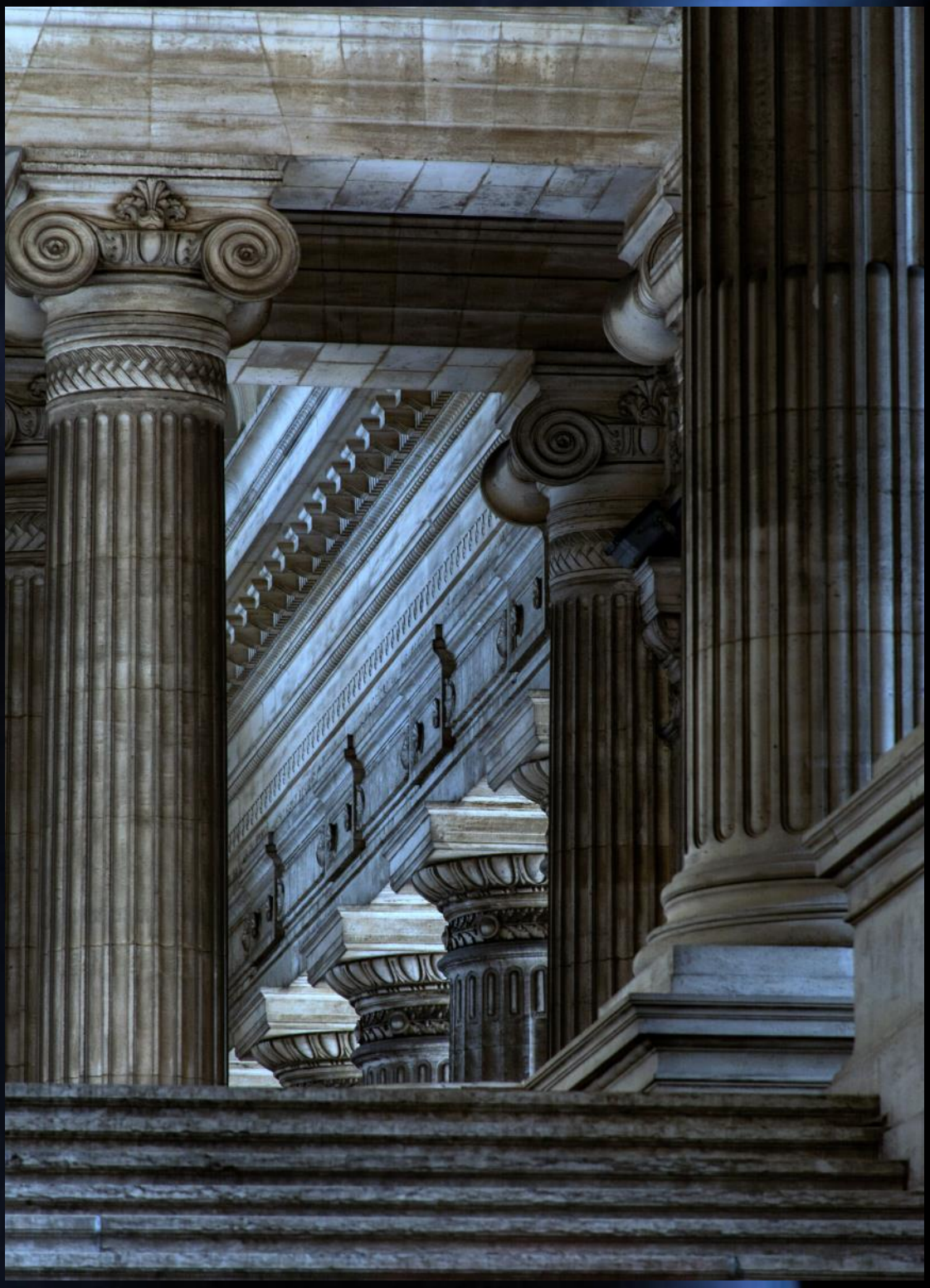
Executive Director

Ms Donna M Cohen

The Executive Director is a part-time, volunteer position

The officers are elected by the Regulatory Members of the ICRS. As volunteers, they are not reimbursed for expenses. The officers serve two-year terms and may be elected for a total of up to two terms.

The ICRS registered office is in Nova Scotia. The administrative office is in Albany, New York.



Being good is easy.
What is difficult is being just.

— Victor Hugo