

September 11, 2023

Hon. Kim Masland
Minister of Public Works
Constituency Office: 271 Main St., Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0
Department of Service Nova Scotia, Public Enquiries
PO Box 186
Halifax NS B3J 2N2

By email.

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

The Council of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors represents the profession of chiropractic. Our almost 200 members span the entire province of Nova Scotia, offering primary contact healthcare services to tens of thousands of Nova Scotians each year. The chiropractic profession has been regulated by the Chiropractic Act in Nova Scotia since 1972 (<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/chiropractic.pdf>).

We take seriously our responsibility to improve the health of our patients in a professional, caring, and effective manner. Our expertise and scope of practice focusses on the examination, diagnosis and treatment of neuromusculoskeletal conditions (https://www.chiropractors.ns.ca/document/6229/NSCC_Scope_of_Practice_Posted.pdf). We are frontline healthcare providers in our communities across the province. We see patients struggle to navigate their needs with limited or no access to family physicians and nurse practitioners. We see the waitlist for family physicians now at 15% of our population (<https://globalnews.ca/news/9913002/nova-scotia-clinics-turn-away-patients-doctor-shortage/#:~:text=With%20a%20waitlist%20of%20nearly,by%20notices%20given%20to%20residents.>). We would like to help.

Current regulations to the Motor Vehicle Act (2.1 and 2.5) designate medical physicians and nurse practitioners to complete the application for an Accessible Parking Permit (<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/mv20392.html>). In many cases, those seeking access to this temporary or permanent parking permit suffer from neuromusculoskeletal conditions or injuries that fall within the existing scope of practice for chiropractors to diagnose and treat. Our plan of management for patients may include a need for an accessible parking permit as well. Currently, we must refer these patients to their family physician or nurse practitioner, if they have one, or to community walk in clinics and emergency departments if they do not.

To aid in reducing paperwork burden on our medical colleagues (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/doctors-medical-red-tape-paperwork-health-care-tim-houston-1.6739687>), reducing time to access care for Nova Scotians who are suffering and to improve efficiency in the provision of health-related services in Nova Scotia, we request

including Chiropractors in the authorized health care provider list to complete the application for Accessible Parking Permits where those conditions fall within our scope of practice.

For your reference, Chiropractors are currently authorized to complete the equivalent forms in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador as well as the Northwest Territories. (References: online application forms for each province.)

In addition, there are reciprocal recognition agreements in place (<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/mvhandrecip.htm>) under regulations to the Motor Vehicle Act of Nova Scotia for those who have been issued an Accessible Parking Permit by the US states of Illinois, Maine, Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio and Kentucky. All of whom permit medical authorization by licensed chiropractors in the state and are already accepted here in Nova Scotia for equivalency purposes.

We request your assistance in facilitating legislative changes needed to help us help Nova Scotians in areas where we are already trained, qualified and regulated. Healthcare in 2023 requires a team effort with all of us working to our full potential to provide needed services.

Thank you for your service to our communities. We invite any questions or the opportunity to meet with you in person or online to further this conversation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Whatling BSc DC
President, Council of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors

cc.

Mr. John Sutherland, Executive Director, Council of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors
Dr. Wanda Lee MacPhee DC, Associate, Council of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors
Dr. Trevor Boudreau, DC, MLA Richmond
Dr. Matt Kennedy, DC, Vice President, Council of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors