Pete’s Perspective: Change

Change for the better. Change for the worse. Change management. A time for change. Ready for a change. Resist change. Embrace change...

One thing about change is that whether you love it or hate it, change at any level, be it personal or professional, even on the front lines, means that things just simply do not remain the same.

Now, obviously when things are good, the same is comfortable – good even. A desirable status quo wherein we’ve achieved what we want to achieve, seen what we want to see, done what we want to do and are genuinely happy with our place in life should be a goal we all realise at some point.

But until then, when things could be improved, new opportunities realized, fresh ideas unexplored and a brighter future to be had … well, in that case the same just doesn’t really cut it anymore. In that case, and to quote Sheryl Crow, a change would do you good.

In this, my first Pete’s perspective, I’m excited to share my perspective on the changes our profession is facing...

I recognize change can be difficult sometimes. We recently saw this with the departure of our Registrar and Executive Director. But changes of this nature, especially in the regulatory world, are not uncommon. Changes in leadership don’t always indicate an issue, but, and as in this case, can be the identification of new opportunities that are possible within a different leadership structure.

You may remember from my message to you on July 5 that we are evaluating the needs of our College. We are committed to ensuring the right people are in the right roles to ensure fair, accurate and appropriate policies and processes. Our goal is to ensure the right direction and appropriate regulation of our profession to meet the needs of the public, practitioners and profession.

Another area where we are anticipating exciting changes are as a result of your, our membership’s, direct feedback. I’ve had the opportunity to review the results of the member survey and I am extremely excited about the changes that are being discussed to better serve all practitioners in our province. These changes will continue to be developed over the coming months, and I truly hope to start sharing them with you at a members’ meeting in October.

Which brings me to another change that I believe will be quite welcome. We are bringing about an Annual Members’ Meeting. With the HPA we had moved away from an AGM structure, but I believe the opportunities to get together as practitioners are too few. The College will begin to promote the registration and details of the meeting in the coming weeks, and I encourage you all to attend if you possibly can.

I’ll end on one final note about change. While sometimes change can happen over night, it usually takes some time. I know some of you expressed concerns about whether you thought your comments in the survey would make a difference or even be read. I want to assure you: we heard you and we are already working on addressing your comments.

The coming changes will keep us moving toward our pursuit of excellent self-regulation; but in this we need each other’s support. I trust you will support each other and the College as we continue.
In service,

Pete Helfrich, President
Alberta College of Paramedics
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