

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada: 40 Years of Certification

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The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) is the national certification body for the pharmacy profession in Canada. PEBC is a nonprofit organization with 40 years of experience in assessing the qualifications and competence of entry-to-practice candidates for licensing by provincial pharmacy regulatory bodies. The rigorous certification process administered by PEBC ensures the quality of pharmacists entering practice and is a vital component in the delivery of safe and effective health care to Canadians.

On December 21, 1963, royal assent was granted to a Canadian Act of Parliament incorporating the PEBC. This Act recognized the Board's purposes of establishing qualifications for pharmacists acceptable to participating licensing bodies and of providing fair and equitable examinations for the issuance of certificates of qualification and registration of successful applicants. The initial meeting of the first Board was held in Toronto in February 1964 (see cover photo).

Over the past 4 decades, the dynamic growth of PEBC has been overseen by many dedicated Board members and Presidents. The current President is Scott Way, of The Goulbs, Newfoundland and Labrador. Five people have served in the role of Registrar-Treasurer: J.C. Turnbull (1964 to 1967), A.W. Matthews (1967 to 1973), F.N. Hughes (1973 to 1981), J.F. Creasy (1981 to 1995), and J.A. Pugsley (1995 to the present).

PEBC has a strong record in research, development, and the provision of fair, comprehensive, and relevant competency-based assessment processes. The most significant milestone in recent years was the implementation, in 2001, of a performance-based component to complement the written (multiple-choice) examination. The Board has ensured that Canadian and internationally trained pharmacists entering practice have



Members of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada at the first meeting of the Board, in February 1964, and an example of the PEBC certificate of qualification issued that year.

the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide competent pharmaceutical care. Current registration is approximately 25 000 pharmacists.

As the national certification board for the pharmacy profession in Canada, PEBC continues to grow and make a positive contribution to the profession.

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