

hpo

I N R E V I E W

HOSPITAL PHARMACY IN ONTARIO

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE 2026

Canadian Society of
Healthcare-Systems
Pharmacy



Société canadienne
la pharmacie dans les
réseaux de la santé

CSHP ONTARIO BRANCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected to CSHP OB
- follow us on Social Media



CHSP OB



@CHSP_OB



@cshp_ob



@cshp_ob

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on any title text to hyperlink directly to article

- 2 [Note from the Editor](#) | Al-Amin Ahamed, Communications Co-Chair
- 3 [President's Address](#) | Anthony Amadio, President
- 4 [President Elect's Address](#) | Susan Simao, President
- 5 [Finding Our Niche: Advancing Primary Care Pharmacy Through Advocacy, Collaboration, and Leadership](#) | Adam Bleik & Joey Champigny, Primary Care Co-Chairs

- 9 [A New Voice for Pharmacy Technicians: An Interview with the Pharmacy Technician Chair](#) | Nancy Sprague, Pharmacy Technician Chair
- 11 [National Delegate's Report](#) | Alicia Niven, National Delegate
- 14 [Volunteer Opportunities](#) | Looking for a way to get involved or build new skills? Check out our volunteer opportunities!
- 15 [Call for Articles](#) | Have an idea for articles on an upcoming issue of the HPO? Reach out to us at the Communications Committee!



Al-Amin Ahamed

[NOTE FROM THE EDITOR]

Dear valued CSHP-OB members,

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2026 edition of the *Hospital Pharmacy in Ontario (HPO)*!

As we move through another exciting year for CSHP-OB, there is plenty to celebrate. This issue highlights the momentum across our Branch and the many ways our members are helping shape the future of pharmacy practice in Ontario through leadership, advocacy, collaboration, and engagement.

We begin with updates from our Branch leadership, including President Anthony Amadio's reflections on strategic planning and advocacy, and President-Elect Susan Simao's focus on strengthening communication and collaboration across CSHP-OB.

We are also excited to highlight the evolving role of pharmacists in primary care. In Finding Our Niche, Primary Care Co-Chairs Adam Bleik and Joey Champigny explore opportunities to advance pharmacist-led care through advocacy, collaboration, and leadership.

This issue also introduces a new voice within CSHP-OB with the establishment of our inaugural Pharmacy Technician Chair position. In our interview with Nancy Sprague, she shares her career journey, vision for pharmacy technician leadership, and thoughts on increasing engagement and representation within CSHP-OB.

Our National Delegate, Alicia Niven, also provides an update on CSHP National's strategic priorities, advocacy efforts, and

highlights from Professional Practice Conference 2026 in Halifax.

Finally, if you are looking for ways to get involved, be sure to check out our volunteer opportunities. We also welcome your ideas and contributions for future issues of the HPO. Your experiences and perspectives help make this publication a reflection of our diverse pharmacy community across Ontario.

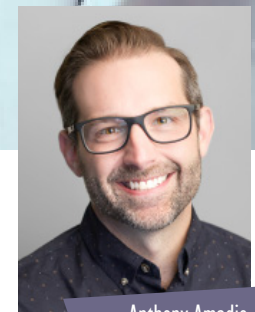
Thank you for your continued support of CSHP-OB and for the dedication you bring to your patients, your teams, and our profession every day.

Happy reading!

Warmly,

Al-Amin Ahamed
Communications Committee
Co-Chair





Anthony Amadio

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: CSHP OB PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS SPRING-SUMMER 2026

Dear CSHP Ontario Branch Members and Colleagues,

As we move deeper into 2026, I am happy to share that the momentum built at the start of this year continues to carry us forward. The work of our Branch is being shaped by thoughtful leadership across our Council, and I am grateful to each member and volunteer who has contributed to that progress.

Our strategic planning work is well underway with the Working Group on Branch Strategic Priorities kickoff meeting in April and the working group is now working through a structured six-month process to develop CSHP-OB's 2026–2031 strategic plan. The group is building from the CSHP National Strategic Plan and has identified three priority pillars to tackle first: (1) Professional Leadership,

(2) Advocacy, and (3) Organizational Excellence, with Identity and Community to be phased in over subsequent years. The vision that emerged from early discussions is energizing: a Branch that better connects practitioners across settings, advances expanded scope in meaningful ways, and strengthens the infrastructure that supports our members.

On the advocacy front, our Branch continues to make its presence felt across multiple external partners, including the Ontario College of Pharmacists, faculties of pharmacy in Ontario, primary care organizations, and the Ministry of Health. This sustained engagement is beginning to yield tangible results. Most notably, recent changes to the OCP's Pharmacy Technician PACE program reflect direct feedback from our membership



is a meaningful example of what organized, persistent advocacy can accomplish. We will continue to ensure that the voices of Ontario's hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians shape the policies and frameworks that govern our practice.

Looking ahead, our Annual Conference and AGM this November will once again be a centrepiece of the year. This is

an opportunity to celebrate our colleagues, share scholarship, and strengthen the connections that make this Branch exceptional. I encourage you to mark your calendars and consider how you might contribute, whether as a presenter, volunteer, or engaged attendee.

I also want to take a moment to thank our outgoing council members and volunteers. The continuity of this Branch depends on those who invest their time generously, often behind the scenes. Your contributions do not go unnoticed.

Thank you, as always, for the work you do on behalf of patients and the profession.

Sincerely,
Anthony Amadio
President, CSHP Ontario Branch



Susan Simao

[PRESIDENT ELECT ADDRESS]

Dear Membership,

In my first term with CSHP-OB as President-Elect, I'm energized by the opportunity to support the internal portfolios that keep us connected, engaged, and moving forward. This year, I'll be working closely with our Communications Committee, Chapter Chairs, Primary Care Chair, and our newly established Pharmacy Technician Chair to strengthen collaboration, enhance communication, and ensure our members across Ontario feel represented and supported.

I have been impressed by our Communications Committee who do an amazing job keeping our membership informed of the various events through the many social media channels and our HPO bulletin. Our Chapter

Chairs continue to drive local engagement and showcase the innovation happening across the province through journal clubs and continuing education events and showcasing the contributions and efforts of our amazing pharmacy residents. The Primary Care Chairs play an increasingly important role as Ontario advances expanded pharmacist scope of practice. Their leadership in advocating for primary care pharmacists—particularly in independent prescribing, chronic disease management, and team-based care—will be essential as our profession's impact continues to grow and we continue to innovate within our healthcare system.

Thank you,

Susan Simao





Adam Bleik



Joey Champigny

FINDING OUR NICHE: ADVANCING PRIMARY CARE PHARMACY THROUGH ADVOCACY, COLLABORATION, AND LEADERSHIP

As Primary Care Co-Chairs for CSHP Ontario, we have spent the past year engaging with pharmacists, healthcare leaders, and advocacy partners to better understand how our profession can continue to evolve within an increasingly complex healthcare system.

A recent article, [Finding Your Niche in Primary Care Teams](#), by Adam Bleik and Jay Reaume in the Canadian Healthcare Network highlighted a theme that strongly resonated with many of our ongoing discussions: *primary care pharmacists continue to create meaningful roles by identifying gaps in care, improving access, and contributing unique expertise within interdisciplinary teams.* While pharmacists have long





[FINDING OUR NICHE... continued]

been recognized as medication experts, there remains significant opportunity to further define and communicate our broader value to patients, providers, policymakers, and healthcare organizations.



Over the past year, our portfolio has focused on two key priorities: **advocacy and education**. Through ongoing collaboration with the **Ontario Primary Care Team Pharmacists (imPACT)**, we have explored opportunities to strengthen partnerships between primary care pharmacists and broader healthcare stakeholders. These conversations have consistently reinforced the importance of ensuring pharmacists have a voice in discussions related to healthcare access, chronic

disease management, workforce planning, and system sustainability.

One of the most encouraging developments has been our growing engagement with leaders across the profession, including advocacy discussions involving CSHP Ontario, imPACT, and Dr. Karima Velji. These conversations have focused on several important issues affecting primary care pharmacists across Ontario, including scope of practice optimization, professional identity, workforce sustainability, and improving access to pharmacist-led care. Importantly, discussions have increasingly shifted away from comparing practice settings and toward a common goal: **identifying how pharmacists can help close gaps in patient access and improve health system capacity.**





[FINDING OUR NICHE... continued]

A recurring theme throughout our discussions has been the need to better communicate the value pharmacists bring to healthcare teams. Pharmacists continue to be underrepresented in many policy and funding conversations despite growing evidence supporting their impact on patient outcomes. As demand for primary care services continues to increase across Ontario, pharmacists are well positioned to help address challenges related to chronic disease management, medication optimization, preventive care, and care transitions. The question is no longer whether pharmacists can contribute, but rather how we can more effectively demonstrate and communicate that value.

Our conversations with imPACT have also highlighted the importance of branding and advocacy. Even within

healthcare, there can be uncertainty regarding the pharmacist's role and scope of practice. Future initiatives may focus on developing clearer messaging around how pharmacists improve access to care, support interdisciplinary collaboration, and help healthcare teams manage increasing patient complexity. The ability to tell our story effectively may be just as important as the clinical work itself.

Looking ahead, we see several opportunities for continued growth. Strengthening relationships with Ontario Health Teams, expanding engagement with healthcare learners, promoting primary care-focused educational programming, and supporting advocacy efforts related to scope of practice and workforce sustainability remain important priorities. We also hope to continue building bridges

between primary care pharmacists, community pharmacists and hospital pharmacists, recognizing that patients move across healthcare

settings every day and benefit most when pharmacists collaborate seamlessly across the continuum of care.





[FINDING OUR NICHE... continued]

Vision for the Future

As we look ahead, our vision is to help position pharmacists as indispensable members of Ontario's healthcare system. While significant progress has been made over the past decade, opportunities remain to further integrate pharmacists into primary care teams, hospital-to-community transitions, chronic

disease management programs, and system-level planning initiatives.

We envision a future where pharmacists practice to their full scope, where patients have equitable access to pharmacist-led services, and where healthcare organizations consistently recognize the value pharmacists bring to improving outcomes and system efficiency.

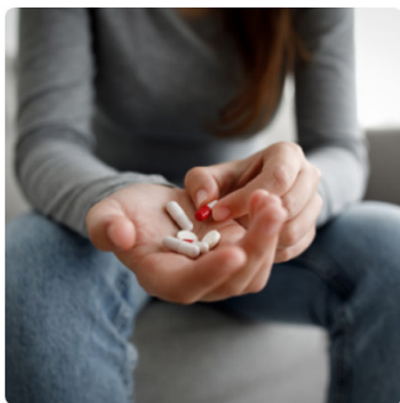
Achieving this vision will require continued advocacy, stronger interprofessional partnerships, and a collective commitment to demonstrating our impact through leadership, innovation, and patient-centred care.

We encourage members to connect with the Primary Care Portfolio, share their experiences, and help shape the next chapter

of primary care pharmacy within CSHP Ontario.

Adam Bleik, PharmD, ACPR
Joey Champigny, PharmD, ACPR, PhD(c)

CSHP Ontario Primary Care Co-Chairs



NEW



Nancy Sprague

A NEW VOICE FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CHAIR

1 Congratulations on becoming the inaugural Pharmacy Technician Chair for CSHP-OB. What does this new role mean to you, both personally and professionally?

It's an incredible honour to step into this inaugural role. Personally, it's very meaningful to be able to represent and advocate for Pharmacy Technicians who play such a critical role in patient care. Professionally, it's an exciting opportunity to help shape how pharmacy technician perspectives are integrated into broader conversations around practice, policy, and advancement within healthcare systems.

2 Can you share a bit about your career journey and what inspired you to become involved with CSHP and pharmacy technician advocacy?

My career has been rooted in hospital pharmacy practice, where I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the evolving scope and impact of pharmacy technicians, over the last ~30+ years. Through my work both in operations and leadership, I became increasingly aware of the importance of ensuring technician voices are represented when decisions are being made. My involvement with CSHP was a natural progression—an opportunity to contribute at a broader level and support ongoing advancement and recognition of the technician role.

3 Why do you think it was important for CSHP-OB to create a dedicated pharmacy technician position within the council?

Creating a dedicated pharmacy technician position is an important step toward inclusive representation. Pharmacy technicians are integral to medication management and patient care, and their perspective adds valuable insight into workflow, safety, and operational excellence. Having a formal role ensures that these perspectives are consistently brought forward and considered in strategic planning and advocacy work.

4 What are some of the key priorities or issues you hope to focus on in your new role?

Key priorities in my role include increasing pharmacy technician engagement within CSHP, advancing professional development opportunities, and promoting awareness of the evolving scope of technician practice. Strengthening engagement is essential to ensuring that advocacy efforts reflect the collective voice of the profession rather than individual perspectives. I am also committed to fostering stronger connections among technicians across diverse practice settings and supporting initiatives that showcase their impact on patient care and health system efficiency.



[A NEW VOICE FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS... continued]

5 Pharmacy technicians continue to play an increasingly important role within healthcare teams. What changes or growth have you observed in technician practice over your career?

Over the course of my career, I've seen pharmacy technician practice evolve significantly in several key areas. From a systems perspective, we've moved to highly automated and technology-enabled workflows, improving both safety and efficiency. From a scope standpoint, there has been a clear shift—from primarily supportive roles to expanded independent responsibilities, and greater involvement in medication-use processes. A major milestone has been the transition to Regulated Pharmacy Technicians through the

Ontario College of Pharmacists, formally recognizing them as accountable healthcare professionals. Overall, the role has grown in both scope and complexity, with technicians now playing a critical role in ensuring safe, efficient, and high-quality medication use. They are increasingly recognized as essential members of the healthcare team.

6 Increasing pharmacy technician membership and engagement within CSHP has been a priority in recent years. What would you say to technicians who are considering becoming more involved?

I would strongly encourage technicians to get involved. CSHP offers a great platform to connect with peers, contribute to meaningful initiatives, and help shape the future of practice. Even small steps—such as attending events or joining a committee—can open the door to new opportunities for growth, collaboration, and leadership. My involvement with CSHP was a natural progression—an opportunity to contribute at a broader level and support ongoing advancement and recognition of the technician role.

7 Looking ahead, what is your vision for the future of pharmacy technician practice and leadership within CSHP-OB?

My vision is to see pharmacy technicians fully engaged and represented across all aspects of CSHP-OB, with expanded opportunities for leadership, collaboration, and professional development. I am committed to strengthening connections with technicians across the province, fostering greater engagement across all chapters. Ultimately, I aim to build a strong, connected community where pharmacy technicians feel supported, empowered, and recognized for their invaluable contributions to patient care and the healthcare system.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CSHP NATIONAL CSHP ONTARIO BRANCH NATIONAL DELEGATE



Alicia Niven

CSHP Ontario Branch National
Delegate (2025-2028)

CSHP National's core efforts continue to align with the 2024-2028 [Strategic Plan](#) as demonstrated by a strong Year 2 start for each of the 5 Key Result Areas (KRAs).

Strategic Plan 2024-2028 Update

Some KRA Year 2 year-to-date highlights

KRA: Professional Leadership

- Two separate working groups formed with monthly meeting cadence to draft preliminary publications on:
 - Bed Ratios for Pharmacy Professionals
 - Implementation of a Clinical Information System (previously named CPOE when call for interest was sent out)



Professional
Leadership

- Development and launch of continuing education modules on the Fundamentals of CAR-T Cell Therapy available [HERE](#)

KRA: Identity

- Representation from the Black Pharmacy Professionals of Canada at the Leadership Workshop at Professional Practice Conference (PPC) 2026 in Halifax



Identity



Community

KRA: Community

- Individual meetings between Branches and CSHP National supporting ongoing information exchange and engagement. Agendas are set collaboratively with each branch based on branch-identified priority items for discussion.



Advocacy

- Development and delivery of a measurable outcome/project for at least half of the [CSHP Communities](#). Some recent examples include:

- [Oncology](#)
- [Anticoagulation/Cardiology](#)
- [Infectious Disease Summit](#)



Organizational
Excellence

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CSHP NATIONAL CSHP OB NATIONAL DELEGATE... continued

KRA: Advocacy

- Consultations:
 - NAPRA Non-Sterile & Sterile Compounding Model Standards and Approach to Competence Consultations
 - CAN/HSO Health Standards Organization Consultation: Cultural Safety and Humility
 - Health Canada's Draft Guidance for Decentralized Clinical Trials Public Review
 - CAN/HSO Health Standards Organization - Healthcare Education Public Review
 - Canada's Drug Agency – Prioritization of Influenza Antivirals
 - Health Canada's Clozapine Dispensation Program (CDP) Review
 - Health Standards Organization Inpatient Services – Public Review
- Advocacy Campaign Letter for Reassessment of Entry-To-Practice Competency of Sterile Compounding for Pharmacy Technicians – NAPRA Board/ Provincial and Territorial Regulatory Authorities
 - Request for reconsideration to retain sterile compounding as a required Entry To-Practice competency for Pharmacy Technicians in Canada
 - Key points included patient safety, alignment with accreditation/education standards, professional scope, workforce and healthcare systems impact
- Development of a NAPRA Entry-To-Practice Competencies Branch Advocacy Toolkit for Pharmacy Technicians
 - Purpose of the toolkit is to provide:

- Context on the consultation
- Key advocacy themes and messages
- Guidance on Branch roles and scope
- Direction for responding to media inquiries
- Guidance for engagement with provincial policymakers and regulators
- Additional CSHP advocacy and consultation work can be found [HERE](#). Have a question about CSHP's advocacy and consultation work? Please reach out to the Professional Practice team.

Additional CSHP advocacy and consultation work can be found [HERE](#). Have a question about CSHP's advocacy and consultation work? Please reach out to the Professional Practice team.

CSHP PPC 2026

Many thanks to those that joined us virtually or in person in beautiful Halifax for PPC 2026. The efforts of those that contributed to the success of a conference filled with education, connection and excellence should be celebrated, even the quick pivot to move the date of Harbourfront Walk/Run in attempts to avoid the horizontal rain!

[HIGHLIGHTS FROM CSHP NATIONAL CSHP OB NATIONAL DELEGATE... continued]

Didn't get a chance to see or have your picture taken with the CSHP PPC 2026 Mascot? Don't miss out on PPC 2027!

Mark your calendars as PPC 2027 is taking place in Toronto May 7-9 at the Westin Harbour Castle. Do you have a topic or area of interest you would like to present, or perhaps refer a speaker to present? Self-submit now or refer a speaker by September 23, 2026 through the [CSHP National Educational Session Submission Form](#) – **Fill out form**

Follow CSHP National to keep up to date on all news, events and activities!

[Facebook](#) | [X \(Twitter\)](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Please reach out to delegate.ob@cshp-on.ca with any questions or feedback about CSHP National.



We need *you!*



Check out our [website](#) for opportunities to volunteer with the Ontario Branch at the local chapter level or on a committee.

Current opportunities:

- Education Committee Co-Chair
- Membership Committee Co-Chair
- Award Committee Co-Chair
- Education Committee members
- Awards Committee members
- Communications Committee members

More details at: cshp-scph.ca/ontario-volunteer-opportunities



SCAN ME

Canadian Society of
Healthcare-Systems
Pharmacy



ON
BRANCH

HOSPITAL PHARMACY IN ONTARIO

CALL FOR ARTICLES



WE'RE LOOKING FOR INTERESTING STORIES
TO PUBLISH FOR THE UPCOMING ISSUES

CSHP.OB.COMMUNICATIONS@GMAIL.COM

Canadian Society of
Healthcare-Systems
Pharmacy



ON
BRANCH

HOSPITAL PHARMACY IN ONTARIO

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR

*Al-Amin Ahamed,
Communications Committee Co-Chair,
CSHP OB*

EDITORIAL TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
cshp.ob.communications@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

*Al-Amin Ahamed, Co-Chair
Victor Lam, Co-Chair
Uroosa Abbas
Hedaya Al-Qazli
Mary Nashat Andraws
Jacqueline Cheung
Amitoze Deol
Alexa Harvey
Sean Park
Shreya Thakrar
Angela Choi*

Design & Layout

*Brian Graves
BriKen Graphic Design*

sanofi

The HPO Newsletter is supported by Sanofi and published on behalf of the Ontario Branch, Canadian Society of Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy.
All published articles including editorials and letters reflect the opinions of its contributors and not necessarily representative of Sanofi, the editor, nor CSHP.