



REGULATIONS FOR THE SELECTION AND ADMISSION OF HONORARY FELLOWS

1. Regulatory framework

1.1 Article 8.1.2 of Bylaw No. 20 states

The Council may admit Honorary Fellows who are such distinguished physicians, surgeons or other persons who fulfill the requirements set out in the regulations prescribed by the Council from time to time.

2. Purpose of award

- 2.1 The purpose of Honorary Fellowship is to honor distinguished physicians, surgeons or laypersons who are not already Fellows or eligible for Fellowship of this College for outstanding performance in a particular vocation or a specific area of professional activity.

3. Governor General of Canada and Surgeon General of Canada

- 3.1 Honorary Fellowship shall be offered to the Governor General of Canada, the patron of the Royal College, at the commencement of the term of office¹.
- 3.2 Similarly, in circumstances where the Surgeon General of Canada is eligible for nomination (i.e., not Royal College certified), Honorary Fellowship shall be offered to the Surgeon General of Canada at the commencement of the term of office.
- 3.3 The Governor General of Canada and the Surgeon General of Canada (when eligible) are exempt from the Evaluation and Process requirements set out in these Regulations, and shall not be counted among the maximum of four Honorary Fellow nominations for consideration by Council.

¹ Council agreed at its April 2006 meeting "THAT, upon assuming office, the Governor General of Canada be automatically offered Honorary Fellowship by the Royal College Council" (Resolution No. 2006-024)

4. Evaluation criteria

- 4.1 Each nomination package must include a nomination letter, at least one support letter signed by a Fellow of the Royal College (if the nominator is not a Fellow), and a current curriculum vitae, or a letter indicating why a CV is not available, failing which a nomination will be deemed incomplete and not considered.
- 4.2 The performance of the nominee in the particular vocation or professional activities for which this award is considered must be outstanding.
- 4.3 In the case of physicians and surgeons, professional activities mean activities related directly or indirectly to medicine and include administration, research, teaching and consulting.
- 4.4 The outstanding activities for which this honor is bestowed must be consistent with the aims and objectives of the College.
- 4.5 The Royal College Council supports diversity in Honorary Fellowship nominations (e.g., age, gender, geography) and encourages nominations for exceptional innovative contributions to the health and care of Canadians and global populations.

5. Process

- 5.1 The Fellowship Affairs Committee of Council, or a subcommittee of the Fellowship Affairs Committee, will receive all eligible nominations submitted by Council members, Fellows, specialty committees, specialty societies, senior academicians and other persons, by the deadline set by the Membership Services & Programs Unit.
- 5.2 The Fellowship Affairs Committee, or subcommittee as the case may be, in consultation with the CEO or designate, shall determine eligible candidates and shall recommend not more than 4 for consideration by Council in a given calendar year.
- 5.3 At its discretion, the Fellowship Affairs Committee may add to the list of nominees, and may consider nominations submitted outside of the annual call for nominations.
- 5.4 Honorary Fellowship nominations will ordinarily be considered by Council at its February meeting, and voting shall generally be by electronic ballot as may be determined from time to time by Council. Each proposed Honorary Fellow shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those in attendance at Council in order to be considered approved. The number of votes required for the motion to succeed shall be confirmed in advance of the vote.
- 5.5 Current members of the Royal College staff and Council shall not be eligible for Honorary Fellowship.
- 5.6 Posthumous nominations and self-nominations shall not be considered for Honorary Fellowship.
- 5.7 Honorary Fellowships shall be offered to the selected candidates, and must be accepted by the candidate before the Honorary Fellowship may be formally bestowed.
- 5.8 The Royal College President or CEO shall advise the selected candidates of their invitation to

Honorary Fellowship. Additionally, confirmation shall be provided via letter, which shall outline the reasons for the nomination, and shall include an invitation to attend convocation (or other event as the case may be).

5.9 Awarding Honorary Fellowships annually is not obligatory.

6. Honorary Fellowship Designation

6.1 Physicians are admitted to Honorary Fellowship in the Division of Medicine.

6.2 Surgeons are admitted to Honorary Fellowship in the Division of Surgery.

6.3 Lay persons are admitted as Honorary Fellows of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

6.4 The designation to be used by physicians, surgeons and lay persons admitted to Honorary Fellowship is FRCPSC (Hon)².

7. Admission to Honorary Fellowship

7.1 Ordinarily, the recipient of Honorary Fellowship would appear at the convocation of the College or at another appropriate venue to receive the Fellowship. Only in exceptional circumstances will Honorary Fellowship be awarded *in absentia*.

7.2 A nominee for Honorary Fellowship may delay presentation and conferring of Honorary Fellowship for a reasonable period of time.

7.3 Ordinarily the diploma will indicate that the Honorary Fellowship was “given in Ottawa” on the actual date of presentation.

8. Other

8.1 Honorary Fellows do not pay annual dues.

8.2 Ordinarily, the recipient of Honorary Fellowship will be responsible for travel and maintenance expenses related to attendance of the presentation ceremony and conferring of the Fellowship (amends Resolution 96-133). In situations where funding is provided to recipients of Honorary Fellowship to offset travel and maintenance expenses, this shall not exceed an amount set annually by the Chief Operating Officer or delegate.

8.3 Honorary Fellows are not ordinarily required to participate in the Maintenance of Certification Program.

8.4 Whenever feasible, the Royal College shall engage with Honorary Fellows in a proactive manner, leveraging their expertise to the benefit of the Fellowship. For example, it may be appropriate for recipients of Honorary Fellowship to be asked to sit on committees or give

² Between June 1976 (Council, June 1976, p. 13) and October 2014 (Council Resolution 2014/15-35), Physicians were admitted to Honorary Fellowship with the designation FRCPC (Hon), Surgeons with the designation FRCSC (Hon), and Lay Persons with the designation FRCPSC.

lectures/addresses (ex: at Convocation).

- 8.5 A person may be nominated a maximum of three times by the same or different nominator(s).
- 8.6 An Honorary Fellow shall cease to be an Affiliate of the Royal College following the death of the Honorary Fellow; receipt of a written resignation from the Honorary Fellow; or by majority vote of the Council of the Royal College to rescind an Honorary Fellowship.

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Resolution No. 2021-2022-09; C: 2021-06-17/18

Approved by Council, February 23, 2017
Resolution No. 2016/17-32; C: 2017-02-23/24

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Resolution No. 2015/16-53; C: 2016-02-18/19

Approved by Council, October 17, 2014
Resolution No. 2014/15-35; ECC: 2014-09-15; C: 2014-10-16/17

Approved by Council, February 2014
Resolution No. 2013/14-64; ECC: 2014-01-15; C: 2014-02-20/21

Approved by Council, May 2007
Resolution No. 2007-05; C: 2007-05-09