CMA Board of Directors
October 2015 Meeting Highlights
(Links are provided to news stories on selected items)

Major discussion topics
• Strategic planning for 2016
• CMA policy development and improving General Council
• Professionalism and quality improvement issues
• Immunization activities

CMA 2016 Strategic Priorities
• High level overview of strategic planning process described
• 12 strategic initiatives proposed for 2016 based on fit, focus and relevance to overall strategic plan
• Board input provided prior to developing the 2016 budget, which will be presented for approval at the December Board meeting

Proposed 2016 Strategic Initiatives

The Profession
• A progressive vision for medical professionalism
• Improving Quality in Health Care Agenda
• Seniors’ Care Strategy
• Immunization

Member Relevance
• Members’ Forum
• Project Orion (regionalized CMA presence)
• Quebec Strategy

Patients and the Public
• Innovative approach to advocacy

The modern CMA
• Enterprise Marketing and Communications strategic plan
• The role of General Council
• CMA modern workplace
• Green initiative

Federal election strategy
• An overview of the current federal election campaign and the successful CMA strategy promoting a national seniors’ strategy was presented
• The association’s plans to continue advocating on this issue after the election were also detailed.
Assisted dying
• Further to the General Council discussion, an amended version to the *Principles-based Recommendations for a Canadian Approach to Assisted Dying* document was approved.
• The CMA is preparing for a number of discussions on the issue at the national and provincial/territorial levels following the upcoming federal election.
• Work is underway in conjunction with NewCo to develop educational resources for physicians.

Quality improvement
• The Board was informed about development of a new quality in health care improvement agenda at the CMA as part of a larger vision for medical professionalism.

Immunization
• The Board of Directors discussed and approved a 3-year plan to improve immunization rates in Canada through a dual strategy of advocacy and development of tools to support physicians.
• A detailed plan and budget will be presented at the December Board meeting.

EMERGING ISSUES

*Natural health products*
• Board endorsed continued CMA action to advocate that natural health products be assessed to the same degree as pharmaceuticals.

*Refugee health*
• The CMA will advocate more strongly for the federal government to resolve issues with the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) to ensure refugee patients receive proper care.

*Bill 20 in Quebec*
• The CMA will urge the federal Minister of Health to intervene with the Quebec government on Bill C-20 because it violates the Canada Health Act.

CMA International Presence
• The Board of Directors endorsed a strategy to strengthen engagement with the World Medical Association.
• The CMA will continue to foster relationships with international partners such as the British Medical Association and the American Medical Association.
• The CMA will work with Canadian and international humanitarian organizations on an ongoing basis.

General Council
• A resolution referred to the Board of Directors from General Council defining obesity as a chronic disease was adopted.
• The Board held a generative discussion on policy development and the role of General Council.
Governance
• The Board of Directors was notified that the development of guidelines for the creation, population and oversight of working groups and task forces will be discussed at the Governance Committee’s meeting later in October.

Update from MD on carbon reduced footprint & investments
• MD strategy to assess client interest and test product options.
• Commitment that MD will remain in line with CMA approach on issue.
• Reducing investment in carbon-based industries will remain an individual choice for MD clients.

Consent agenda
A number of items were approved by the Board:
• CMA Policy on Palliative Care
• Endorsement of the Canadian Blood Services document “Ethics Guide for Donation Physicians”
• Revisions to the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools standards and elements