CMA Board Governance Review 2017-2018 – Backgrounder

The opportunity
The CMA Board of Directors has a responsibility to ensure the good functioning of your association and to manage its affairs. As such, the Board directed the Governance Committee to undertake a review of its structure and composition to ensure that it reflects the needs of the CMA enterprise, and supports a modern CMA and a new strategic plan. In addition, new trends in Board governance (smaller and more nimble boards) and rapidly evolving business/association and health care landscapes require CMA to rethink how it can derive the most benefit from its Directors and better communicate and engage with members.

Desired outcomes
A strengthened CMA leadership to advance CMA's vision and serve the needs, expectations and interests of its members, stakeholders and Canadians, as well as a Board small enough to have rich discussions and meet more frequently, yet large enough to get the work done.

Our approach
Engagement with members, provincial/territorial medical associations (PTMAs) and other stakeholders. Although this consultation is undertaken in tandem with a review of the role of General Council in a modern CMA, it focuses on the fiduciary stewardship, at the Board level, of a forward-looking organization.

Guiding principles
− The Board should choose its governance model to reflect the needs of the corporation it governs and in support of its strategic plan – CMA 2020 – which underpins CMA’s aspirations to serve its members (the profession) while empowering and caring for patients.
− CMA, as an organization, has an advocacy focus. Among its many duties, the CMA Board also oversees for-profit subsidiaries which serve the interest of its members. Stewardship of the CMA enterprise requires the right individuals to take on this task.
− CMA efforts to modernize its governance structure to date have included adapting components of the Canada Non-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA); a modern framework designed to promote accountability, transparency and good corporate governance for the not-for-profit sector.
− Increase direct communication and engagement with members.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please provide your feedback to Marie Claire Bédard, Associate Director, Governance, at marie-claire.bedard@cma.ca.