CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 2016 Meeting Highlights

STRATEGIC PLANNING
CMA 2017 Strategic Priorities and Future Planning

• The Board undertook a second visioning exercise as part of developing the next strategic plan (2018-2020) looking at the health of the association and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis while discussing goals and aspirations for the future of the organization.

• Strategic initiatives proposed for 2017, based on fit, focus and relevance to the overall strategic plan, were supported as was the 2017 budget; it is understood that the list will be flexible and adjusted to accommodate priorities as they arise throughout the year (e.g., health accord, Canadian Controlled Private Corporations, marijuana legislation, opioids).

Priorities for 2017 include:
- Medical professionalism
- Medical aid in dying
- Medical use and legalization of marijuana
- Opioids
- Health accord and the vision for the future of health care
- Federal tax issues
- Physician health
- Climate change and health
- Indigenous wellness
- Tobacco
- Immunization

GOVERNANCE
General Council

• In follow-up to the Board’s October discussion on the role of General Council in support of the work of the Task Force on the Role of General Council in a Modern CMA (GCTF), the Board discussed the concept of General Council as a function to engage the medical profession and stakeholders in inclusive, innovative and action-oriented dialogue on Canadian health care in support of the profession and patients (statement to be established around this concept).

• The Board also supported a consultation strategy to engage members and stakeholders on the future of General Council.

• The GCTF will meet on Jan. 18, to review input to date and continue its work and consultations. It is anticipated that the Board would review any recommendations for changes to General Council in May 2017, en route to General Council’s consideration in August.

• Preliminary plans for General Council 2017 were also presented, including session topics on medical professionalism and innovation, as well as concurrent sessions and emerging issues dialogue. Governor General of Canada the Honourable David Johnston has been confirmed as a keynote speaker.
Board of Directors – Role and Structure

- The Board discussed the importance of having an avenue for non-physician views and expertise within CMA’s governance structure as well as the skillset and competencies required of directors as part of its review of its ideal model of governance.
- It is anticipated that a potential model would be brought to the Board in March for consultation in spring and any recommendations for changes to the Board structure would be reviewed in May 2017, en route to General Council in August.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Health Accord

- On Oct. 17, as the Health Ministers met in Toronto, CMA released its platform on the 2017 Health Accord – Improving the health of all Canadians: A vision for the future. Minister of Health Dr. Jane Philpott took this opportunity to invite CMA and other health stakeholders to identify their priorities for the accord (e.g., seniors’ care, innovation fund, further integration of mental health services into medicare, etc.).
- CMA will also expand its advocacy to include a proposal for a Home Care Fund – detailing how the federal government should spend the $3 billion it has set aside for home care, and recommendations for a new Health Accord that focus on accountability measures within the health care system.
- By the end of Q4, CMA will have participated in more than 30 roundtables hosted by MPs in communities across the country as well as non-medical stakeholder organizations. In addition, CMA’s award-winning public engagement campaign – Demand a Plan – has reached almost 40,000 supporters, backing our call for improved seniors’ care.

Opioids

CMA has committed to, by December 2017

- disseminate new tools and resources to promote the uptake, use, and impact of the updated Canadian Guidelines for Opioids in Chronic Non-Cancer Pain
- surveying a sample of its members on the facilitators and barriers to implementing the new guidelines to determine the level of awareness and educational needs of Canadian physicians, as well as identify system issues such as access to pain and addiction treatment options

As part of the Pan-Canadian Collaborative on Education for Improved Opioid Prescribing, CMA has committed to:

- collaborate in the implementation of a workplan that will focus on improved treatment of pain through, among other measures, safer prescribing of opioid medications, increased awareness of the harms associated with opioids, and better prevention and recognition of opioid misuse

As part of the Executive Council of the First Do No Harm strategy, CMA is committed to:

- provide ongoing guidance in the coordination, implementation and evaluation of the strategy’s recommendations
- provide expertise and coordination in complex areas of problematic substance use, (e.g., in collaboration with McMaster University, contribute to updating the existing guidelines and the development of e-tools for prescribers)
Canadian Controlled Private Corporations

- CMA’s efforts to date have resulted in raising awareness of member concerns.
- CMA will maintain an intensive advocacy effort throughout the budget (including pre-budget) consultation process to include:
  - continued proactive political outreach and engagement with government, MPs and Senators
  - actively engaging/intervening in the legislative process
  - ongoing support to facilitate physician engagement

Other Policy Initiatives

- The Board heard from Dr. Wendy Levinson of Choosing Wisely Canada and supported a continued alliance to help move this initiative forward.
- A revised policy statement on the physician appointment and reappointment process was adopted.
- ‘Directions for Action of Advancing Rural Family Medicine: the Canadian Collaborative Taskforce,’ set to be published on Feb. 22, 2017, were endorsed.
- Consultations will take place on a draft policy position paper on third-party forms and the physician’s role.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Appointment of Past President Dr. Chris Simpson as the next (2019-2021) CMA representative to the World Medical Association (Dr. Louis H. Francescutti will replace Dr. André Bernard as the incumbent in April 2017 for a two-year term; Dr. Simpson will sit as an observer in the interim).
- Plans for celebrating CMA’s 150th anniversary are underway. The coming months will feature many efforts to showcase the CMA’s tradition of excellence, accomplishment and dedication, all of which combine to serve as the foundation for the medical profession’s future.
- Approval received for continuing the two-year pilot framework for time-limited working groups and task forces.
- Resolution passed directing that investments in marijuana producers be specifically restricted in the MD portfolio of funds.