CMA Governance Review – Update January 2018

Guiding Principles for Change

• Engaging innovatively and inclusively in courageous and influential dialogue to advance health in Canada
• The Board should choose a governance model that reflects the needs of the corporation 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 but also oversees for-profit subsidiaries which serve the interest of its members.
• CMA efforts to modernize its governance structure to date have included adapting components of the Canada Non-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.

Health Summit
CMA’s new Health Summit will engage and mobilize a large number of participants on the theme of ‘Inspiring a Future of Better Health.’ It will feature inspirational keynote speakers, panel discussions and a market place of ideas for participants, including PTMAs, specialty associations, patients and public policy thought leaders, etc. to network and exchange. ‘Shaping the future for patients and for physicians’ and ‘Accelerating change for better health’ are the key areas for discussion. The Ambassador program for the first 15 (learners and first 5 years in practice) will continue and the registration fee will be waived for all attendees in 2018 to celebrate our inaugural year. Save the date – Aug. 19-22, 2018 in Winnipeg – and attend the summit, AGM and General Council. Further details will be provided in the new year.

New member proposals – Year-round engagement
As part of CMA’s governance review and in a move to make policy development broader within the membership in terms of input and consultation, and allowing more inclusive and courageous dialogue, CMA will introduce in 2018 member proposals. Consultations with members and stakeholders is core to the new process. The goal is to move to a year-round intake process of ‘proposals’ to achieve a more cohesive and focused approach to policy development. Aligned with CMA 2020 in favour of issues and causes that matter to the profession and patients, the Board would continue to initiate, consult on and approve policy. Proposals on business and corporate matters would come to the AGM. Benefits include:
• Greater engagement of members and the profession, including stakeholder organizations such as PTMAs, affiliates, etc. in a year-round process instead of an annual process
• Allows members to put forward a proposal
• More inclusive approach to formulating policy
• Continues to modernize CMA’s governance structure and model of engaging members

An outline of the process is included below. Stay tuned for further details.