Guiding Principles for Change

− Engaging innovatively and inclusively in courageous and influential dialogue to advance health in Canada.
− Increasing direct communication and engagement with members by transitioning from a representative to an engagement model.
− Choosing a governance model that reflects the needs of the corporation and supports its strategic plan – **CMA 2020** – which underpins CMA’s aspirations to serve its members (the profession) while empowering and caring for patients.
− Modernizing CMA’s governance structure – to date this includes adapting leading statutory frameworks designed to promote accountability, transparency and good corporate governance for the not-for-profit sector.

Key Messages

− In October 2017, the CMA Board approved a new consultation model for a CMA Summit proposed by the General Council Task Force (GCTF) as a successor to GC.
− GC is expected to culminate in 2018; recognition of the CMA Code of Ethics’ 150th anniversary and a discussion on the revisions needed to modernize it will be featured.
− The purpose of the summit is to support **CMA 2020** by creating an experience which enables participants to engage innovatively and inclusively in courageous and influential dialogue to advance health in Canada. For more information about the Summit, please click [here](#).
− These changes are proposed in an effort to focus on CMA’s new engagement model and be more inclusive (see below). Business elements have transitioned or will transition to the membership at large (e.g., elections), Annual General Meeting (AGM) (e.g., bylaws approval) or Board of Directors (e.g., committees), as appropriate.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why is CMA changing its consultation model?**
   CMA is moving to engage 1000s instead of 100s using various methods (e.g., leveraging technology to promote communities of interest, member engagement, etc.) to provide more opportunities for direct grassroots input into CMA policy development and other initiatives.

2. **How is CMA addressing the limitations of the current model?**
   Although by convention motions have been associated with GC, we are transitioning to a year-round intake process for providing policy guidance through member proposals. As such, there will be no particular call for motions this year. As part of CMA’s vision of a networked organization, **CMA Communities of Interest** and “member proposals” are new initiatives providing year-round engagement – thereby expanding member engagement and facilitating contributions to our advocacy and policy work. Member proposals on business and corporate matters would come to the AGM.

3. **Where will CMA business items be discussed if not at General Council and where will elections take place?**
   Over several years, CMA business items such as bylaw approval and the appointment of auditors have migrated from GC to the AGM. The one outstanding business item within GC’s purview is the elections. It is therefore proposed that if bylaw changes are approved in 2018, elections for such positions as the Board of Directors and President-Elect would move to the general membership (via electronic or e-voting) and be reported to the membership starting in 2019 — for Board seats in each province/territory where a seat/position is available. This e-voting model, open to the membership, is currently used for electing the CMA President-Elect nominee at a provincial/territorial level. Transition clauses will be
included in the 2018 proposed bylaw amendments to facilitate elections and winding down GC. For further details on proposed changes to the election process, see the May Update.

Also starting in 2019, it is anticipated that the AGM will contain a virtual component to enable broader member participation and input to CMA particularly in corporate/business areas related to the association, members and the profession. Regional hubs for the AGM will also support virtual participation, networking at a local level and polling on business matters. Details on how to connect will be provided at a later date.

4. What will be discussed at the AGM and GC in 2018 in Winnipeg?
   AGM Business Meeting
   – Presentation of Annual Report (incl. 2019 membership fees)
   – Appointment of Auditors
   – Approval of Bylaw Amendments
   – Installation of President and inaugural address
   General Council
   – Code of Ethics 150th anniversary celebration and revisions
   – Elections

5. Who is eligible to vote at the AGM?
   All members are entitled to attend and vote at the business session of the Annual Meeting as full participants.

6. Who will chair the AGM?
   In 2018 owing to the transition, it is anticipated that the Chair would be the President. The Speaker would help facilitate the session. Going forward, it is anticipated that the Board would appoint a physician member with both chairing and facilitation skills to chair the AGM.

7. When will the President be installed and the presidency take effect?
   The President will be installed during the AGM. In 2018, the presidency will take effect following the close of GC. In future, the presidency will take effect immediately following the AGM.

8. When will awards be presented?
   In 2018, awards will be presented to recipients during the Awards Gala on Tuesday evening, Aug. 21 in Winnipeg. Timing for future presentations is under review as we endeavour to ensure appropriate recognition of all award recipients.

9. When and where will AGMs be held in future?
   Starting in 2019, AGMs will be held in the spring (June) and continue to follow the current annual meeting rotation with virtual attendance available in major centres/hubs. Further details to follow.

10. Why is the AGM moving to the spring?
    Starting in 2019, the AGM will be scheduled in the spring to permit CMA to meet an applicable statutory threshold of holding AGMs within 6 months of the fiscal year end (CMA currently holds its AGM in August due to an exemption).

11. What will this year’s annual meeting look like?
    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. 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. Click here to register.

**Schedule for Sunday, Aug. 19**
- On-site registration and Networking event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights that evening

**Schedule for Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 20-21**
- Health Summit with the Awards Gala taking place on Tuesday evening

**Schedule for Wednesday, Aug. 22**
- AGM and GC

CMA Communities of Interest

**Member Proposals (also see related FAQs)**

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 has introduced 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

Click here for further details.
Member Proposals: Policy Development

Proposal Intake (from members, CMA communities, PTMAs, affiliates or other stakeholders)

Identify eligibility criteria (fit, focus and relevance to CMA 2020)

Determine appropriateness vis-à-vis existing policy or policy gaps

Developed proposals are submitted to Board for approval to consult; if non-controversial and non-resource intensive, submit to Board for review/approval at this stage

Further develop potential proposals through engagement with members, PTMAs, affiliates, CMA communities, at Health Summit or other forum, or via working group

Engage members, PTMAs and affiliates in prioritizing eligible proposals for further development (with Board review of results)

Consult members, CMA communities, PTMAs, affiliates and other stakeholders through discussion and/or via e-polling

Review feedback and incorporate into new draft policy

CMA Board adoption of new policy (communicate to members and use in advocacy)

(For illustrative purposes only)

The initiatives outlined in this document will provide you with additional opportunities to stay connected with us and your colleagues. Please provide your feedback or questions to Marie Claire Bédard, Associate Director, Governance, at marie-claire.bedard@cma.ca.