Subject: Tax alert - week of August 20
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 at 8:32:39 AM Eastern Daylight Time
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CMA ADVOCACY UPDATE

As anticipated, media coverage was amplified during the General Council meeting in Québec City. Through this media visibility, the CMA is conveying to government the significance of ensuring that Canada remains an attractive place to practice medicine.

On the advocacy front, the CMA, with the support of Doctors of BC, is organizing a grassroots physician roundtable in Kelowna, B.C., to coincide with the Liberal Women’s Caucus special meeting on Sept. 5.

This provides an ideal opportunity to raise awareness about the impact that the proposed tax measures could have on women physicians. Meetings are also anticipated with other federal parties, as they have also inquired about the CMA's position on the issue.

As well, the CMA continues to engage with more than 30 associations or organizations representing small business operators or professionals, sharing strategies and technical information.

DISCUSSION AT GENERAL COUNCIL — EMERGING ISSUES SESSION

The proposed tax changes were featured as part of the emerging issues discussion at our General Council meeting. Attendees received an overview of the CMA's current advocacy efforts and had the opportunity to share their own stories about the impact of the proposed changes. The session generated rich insights on the impact on physicians and a diversity of perspectives was heard. Feedback received as part of this session will be incorporated into our technical brief to the federal government, due Oct. 2.

MEETING WITH FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER — AUG. 30

CMA staff are currently preparing for a meeting next Wednesday, Aug. 30 with Finance Minister Bill Morneau. We're working closely with the PTMAs to underscore why the government needs to rethink its approach to tax fairness. The CMA will emphasize that more time is required to conduct the appropriate analysis and stakeholder engagement to fully understand the implications of these proposals, while also presenting the anticipated impact of these changes.
GRASSROOTS OUTREACH TO MPs CONTINUES

We’ve been blown away by your response to our new MP letter-writing tool — over 4,500 letters have been sent in the past few weeks. That’s 14 letters every hour! That’s a great start, and it’s getting results, but let’s keep up the momentum. Please click here to send your letter today.

There’s also still time to meet with your MPs while they’re in their ridings for the summer. The House of Commons doesn’t resume until Sept. 18, so consider setting up a meeting at their constituency office. If your schedule doesn’t permit a meeting, a phone call to their office or a Tweet sharing your concerns can be just as effective — remember to use the hashtag #TaxFairness to help amplify your message.

WEBINAR ON PRIVATE CORPORATIONS & TAX PLANNING — SIGN UP NOW

In partnership with MD Financial Management, we’ll be holding a webinar on Aug. 29 featuring guest speakers from the national accounting firm MNP LLP. The webinar will look at the proposed tax changes and how private corporations — particularly medical corporations — could be affected. Registration is free — click here to sign up.

NEWS STORIES OF THE WEEK

- "Opinion: Taxing professionals not a way to grow the economy", Vancouver Sun, August 19
- "Letter: Tax changes would hit physicians hard", The Telegram, August 21
- "Power and Politics — Dr. Gigi Osler" (clip begins at 21:51), CBC, August 21

We encourage you to share these stories with your colleagues on your social media channels or by email to help spread the message further.

PROPOSED TWEETS FOR THE WEEK

Show your support for all small business owners — be sure to write a letter to your MP about #TaxFairness http://ow.ly/UNls30ezNnZ
#TaxFairness is an issue that affects millions of people — be sure to have your voice heard: http://ow.ly/UNls30ezNnZ

We heard from many physicians about #TaxFairness at #CMA150 — but our work is not over; let’s continue our efforts http://ow.ly/UNls30ezNnZ

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Fact sheet: “Let’s Talk Facts and Fairness”
MD Financial Management blog
FAQ on the proposed tax changes

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