
CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS - Summary of December 2022 & February 2023 Meetings

The CMA Board of Directors (“[the Board](#)”) met in early December 2022 and late February 2023 to receive updates on key priority strategic initiatives, approve the 2023 budget and associated workplans, and conduct other Board business. Highlights include:

Presidential Updates

CMA President Dr. Alika Lafontaine, Immediate Past President, Dr. Katharine Smart, and President-Elect Dr. Kathleen Ross, provided updates to the CMA Board on their work. The work of CMA’s French spokesperson, Dr. Jean Joseph Condé was also acknowledged.

CMA Impact 2040 Updates

The Board received an update on [CMA’s Priority Strategic Initiatives \(PSIs\)](#):

- ***Integrated Health Human Resource (IHHR) Planning***: Focus has shifted from recruitment initiatives (to help fill urgently needed gaps in the system) to longer-term planning and data needs. The CMA continues to work as a convener, bringing together the Canadian Medical Forum, Canadian Nurses Association, HealthCareCAN, and the McMaster Health Forum to move initiatives forward. (For more information about our work in this area see the following links: [Workforce Planning](#)).
- ***Pan-Canadian Licensure (PCL)***: Following the recent announcement of an Atlantic Physicians Registry (set to be launched on May 1, 2023) which will allow physicians to opt-in to a regional license that gives them the opportunity to practice medicine in any of the four provinces, the PCL initiative continues to build momentum with many stakeholders. CMA and its partners in this space are currently working together to mitigate any resistance, grounded in foundational principles and the functional benefits expected. (For more information about our work in this area see the following links: [What Pan-Canadian Licensure can do for a workforce in crisis](#) and [2022 PCL Survey Summary Report](#)).
- ***Indigenous Health in allyship with First Nations, Inuit and Metis people***: The CMA’s Guiding Circle has been meeting regularly and has developed a well-informed and robust first draft of the Indigenous Health goal. The Guiding Circle’s final meeting is scheduled for March 2023, where it will reach consensus on the goal(s) and close the Circle appropriately. The work of the Guiding Circle will be reported back to the CMA Board at its meeting on April 30 – May 1, 2023. (More information about CMA’s Guiding Circle is available [here](#).)
- ***Net Zero Carbon Emissions Health Systems***: The federal government is showing heightened interest in greening the economy and contributions towards creating a net-zero Canadian economy; the CMA was part of a recent submission to the government on Climate Resilient Health Infrastructure. The CMA is also part of a new coalition of planetary health experts being led by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. (More information about our work in this area is available here: [A net-zero emissions health system](#)).

- **Health Workforce Framework for Psychological, Physical, and Cultural (PPC) Safety:** Bill C-3, the federal legislation enacted to protect physicians and other health care workers from bullying and harassment, has been in place for one year and continues to garnish significant international interest and accolades from other international medical associations. (More information on Bill C-3 can be found [here](#).) The learning and discovery phase for this initiative is ongoing, and once a draft framework is developed it will be shared and socialized with partners for their input and feedback. (More information about our work in this area is available here: [A framework for physicians' physical, psychological and cultural safety](#).)
- **Improving Physician Wellness by Reducing Administrative Load:** This topic is currently one of the top five issues being discussed at physician roundtables across the country. Provincial governments (e.g., Nova Scotia) and physician stakeholder groups are actively looking at ways to reduce the amount of forms and administrative work that doctors must complete. At its February 2023 meeting, the Board approved the creation of a time-limited working group to work on establishing the objectives of this area of focus. The Terms of Reference for the working group will be presented to the CMA Board for its approval at its meeting on April 30 – May 1, 2023. (More information about our work in this area is available here: [Improving physician wellness by reducing administrative burden](#).)
- **Aging with Dignity in the Community:** This initiative will be more fulsomely discussed at the October 2023 meeting when more background/foundational work has been completed. It was noted that the Health Standards Organization recently deployed new national standards for long-term care. CMA leadership and management are weighing the potential benefits and risks of participating as a co-sponsor in a United Nations Working Group side event on the rights of older adults at an upcoming meeting in April 2023. (More information about our work in this area is available here: [Aging with dignity in the community](#).)

Business Matters

2023 Budget and Planning:

- At its meeting in December, 2022, the Board discussed the need to focus the organization on its strategic objectives. The Board identified key areas of focus for 2023, including the priorities listed above.
- At its meeting in March, 2023, the Board approved the 2023 operating budget, ensuring that the financial and human resources of the organization are sharply focused on the strategic areas identified by the Board.

Emerging Issues: Public-Private Health Care

- In addition to the ongoing work related to the seven PSIs, the Board identified the Public-Private health care as an important emerging issue at its December 2022 meeting and approved a work plan and draft budget at its February 2023 meeting which will engage the profession, public and other stakeholders on this issue.

Engagement:

- A new Integrated Engagement Team (IET) will help the CMA bring focus and discipline to engagement initiatives across the organization, develop more cohesive engagement plans across audiences, and enable the coordinated approach espoused in the Profession Engagement Advisory Group (PEAG)'s 5C engagement model. The model is issue-driven, flexible, proactive, and set up to encourage co-creation with members, maximizing the relevance and convenience for physicians to meaningfully connect and partner with the CMA.

CMA Media:

- CMA Media is a new initiative to improve the quality and quantity of health and health system news. It will also support a network of physicians who are active in social and traditional media, and develop/catalyze news and other content for social media and other platforms.

Decision-Making Framework:

- To assist CMA in focusing on areas of strategic importance, management presented a decision-making framework designed to help staff and the Board assess emerging issues to determine whether they are aligned to CMA's strategic focus.

Governance Matters:

- The Board continues to be committed to meaningful consultation with members on bylaw changes.
- In December 2022, the Board identified three main areas of governance review: (a) role and election of the president; (b) role of certain committees, namely the Ethics, Nominations and Appointment Committees; and (c) the nomination, appointment and election process for CMA leadership positions. An Engagement Plan outlining CMA's plan for engaging with members on these areas of review was presented to the Board.
- In February 2023, the Board approved amendments to the Terms of References of multiple committees and changes to the job descriptions of a few leadership positions. The following items were approved by the Board:
 - The addition of a member with accounting or financial expertise to the Audit and Finance Committee,
 - Updating the Vice-Chair and President descriptions to reflect additional responsibilities expected of the roles, and
 - Updating the Chair of Audit and Finance Committee description to include serving as a Director on the CMA Impact Board.
- In February 2023, the Board: (i) appointed Dr. David Lane as the affiliate member on the Nominations Committee for a three-year term, (ii) identified four individuals for submission to Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), from which CACMS will choose a final candidate for the new CMA professional member on the committee, and (iii) approved the nomination of Dr. Peter H. Bryce as an inductee to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

AGM 2023 Update:

- AGM 2023 will be held on August 16, 2023 from 11 AM – 4 PM. It will be a virtual event for members to attend. No by-law changes will be brought forward at that meeting, rather there will be consultation on potential bylaw changes for AGM 2024. (For updated information on AGM 2023 see the following: [AGM 2023](#).)
- In January, 2023, the Board received notice of Dr. Kim Kelley's resignation as AGM Vice-Chair. In accordance with the by-laws, the Board has the authority to approve an interim Vice-Chair. In February 2023, the Board approved [Dr. André Bernard](#) as the new interim Vice-Chair for the CMA Annual General Meeting and further approved [Dr. Ann Collins](#) as the backup for the interim Vice Chair of the CMA Annual General Meeting.

CMA Associate Society Status:

- [The Canadian Society for Long Term Care Medicine \(CSLTCM\)](#) was approved for CMA Associate Society Status.

Vision: A vibrant profession and a healthy population

Guiding Principles: Equity, diversity, engagement, accountability, transparency, impact