Appendix B - Proposed bylaw amendments

Motion AGM-2 – Strengthen and modernize the eligibility criteria for CMA board directors

Proposed motion: The bylaw amendments to strengthen and modernize the eligibility criteria for CMA Board directors (under sections 12.2 and 11.5) included in Appendix B of the Canadian Medical Association 2024 Report to Members are hereby adopted as the bylaws of the Association.

Below is an explanation of the provisions that are contemplated as part of the above motion.

Bylaw sections 12.2 (Eligibility for Nomination) and 11.5 (Vacancies)

Under section 12.2 of the CMA bylaws, the current eligibility requirements for Board director candidates are: (i) CMA membership (except the non-physician position); (ii) adherence to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines; and (iii) residence in Canada. There is an additional requirement that the President-Elect (who sits on the Board of Directors) must have been a CMA member for five consecutive years preceding their nomination.

Under section 11.5 of the CMA bylaws, an office, a seat on the Board of Directors or on a committee is declared vacant if: (i) the incumbent resigns; (ii) the incumbent is found by a court to be of unsound mind; (iii) the incumbent ceases to be a CMA member (except for the non-physician director); (iv) the incumbent is removed by the Board of Directors in accordance with section 11.4; (v) no candidate is confirmed by General Council; or (vi) the incumbent is deceased.

The CMA Board proposes adding to the bylaws the following eligibility requirements for all directors and director candidates, including all President-Elect candidates. Candidates must: (i) be an individual of at least 18 years of age; (ii) not have been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country; (iii) not have the status of a bankrupt; and (iv) not have been found guilty of an indictable criminal offence for which they have not been pardoned. These additional requirements are best practice in Canada and explicit under laws and guidelines that govern corporations. In contrast, the CMA is governed by its own Act of Incorporation, which does not include the proposed requirements. The proposed bylaw amendments would make these best practice requirements explicit.

Current wording

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.2 Eligibility for Nomination</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.2.1 Except for the position of non-physician director, only members of the Association who are members of the medical profession shall be eligible for nomination. All nominees are subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures. All nominees must be residents of Canada.</td>
<td>12.2.1 Except for the position of non-physician director, only members of the Association who are members of the medical profession shall be eligible for nomination. All nominees are subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures. All nominees must be residents of Canada.</td>
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View the complete, current version of the CMA bylaws.
## Motion AGM-2 – Strengthen and modernize the eligibility criteria for CMA board directors

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| 12.2.2 The following persons are disqualified from being a director:  
(a) anyone who is less than 18 years of age;  
(b) anyone who has been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country;  
(c) anyone who has been found guilty of an indictable criminal offence for which they have not been pardoned; or  
(d) a person who has the status of bankrupt. | [Note: 12.2.2 is proposed as a new section]  
12.2.2 The following persons are disqualified from being a director:  
(a) anyone who is less than 18 years of age;  
(b) anyone who has been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country;  
(c) anyone who has been found guilty of an indictable criminal offence for which they have not been pardoned; or  
(d) a person who has the status of bankrupt. | [Note: 12.2.2 is proposed as a new section]  
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(b) anyone who has been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country;  
(c) anyone who has been found guilty of an indictable criminal offence for which they have not been pardoned; or  
(d) a person who has the status of bankrupt. |

### 11.5 Vacancies

11.5.1 An office, or a seat on the Board of Directors or on a committee shall be declared vacant:  
(a) if the incumbent resigns in writing to the Chief Executive Officer;  
(b) if the incumbent is found by a court to be of unsound mind;  
(c) except in the case of the non-physician director, if the incumbent ceases to be a member of the Association;  
(d) if the incumbent is removed by the Board of Directors in accordance with section 11.4;  

11.5 Vacancies  
11.5.1 An office, or a seat on the Board of Directors or on a committee shall be declared vacant:  
(a) if the incumbent resigns in writing to the Chief Executive Officer;  
(b) if the incumbent is declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country;  
(c) except in the case of the non-physician director, if the incumbent ceases to be a member of the Association;  

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11.5.1 An office or a seat on the Board of Directors shall be declared vacant:  
(a) if the incumbent resigns in writing to the Chief Executive Officer;  
(b) if the incumbent is declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country;  
(c) except in the case of the non-physician director, if the incumbent ceases to be a member of the Association;
### Motion AGM-2 – Strengthen and modernize the eligibility criteria for CMA board directors

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| (e) if no candidate is confirmed by General Council; | (d) if the incumbent is removed by the Board of Directors in accordance with section 11.4;  
(e) if the incumbent has been found guilty of an indictable criminal offence;  
(f) if the incumbent becomes bankrupt;  
(e) (g) if no candidate is confirmed by General Council;  
(f) (h) on the death of the incumbent. | (d) if the incumbent is removed by the Board of Directors in accordance with section 11.4;  
(e) if the incumbent has been found guilty of an indictable criminal offence;  
(f) if the incumbent becomes bankrupt;  
(g) if no candidate is confirmed by General Council;  
(h) on the death of the incumbent. |

11.5.2 A seat on a committee shall be declared vacant according to a process set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures.
Motion AGM-3 – Affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions

Proposed motion: The bylaw amendments to affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions (under section 11.5 and chapter 12) included in Appendix B of the Canadian Medical Association 2024 Report to Members are hereby adopted as the bylaws of the Association.

Below is an explanation of the provisions that are contemplated as part of the above motion.

Bylaw section 12.3 (Nominations Rules and Processes)

In 2022, members approved bylaw amendments that enabled members to directly apply for leadership opportunities, and the CMA to select its own leadership rather than accepting nominees put forward by the provincial/territorial medical associations (PTMAs) and affiliate organizations. The CMA continues to work closely with partner organizations to promote leadership positions.

To further affirm the CMA’s autonomy and provide greater clarity and transparency for members and partner organizations, the CMA Board proposes bylaw amendments to:

- replace the term “nomination” with “application” under section 12.3.1 because leadership candidates are no longer nominated by a third-party organization;
- clarify under section 12.3.1 that candidates must apply via an application form rather than via a third party’s nomination;
- remove section 12.3.2 (“Nominations for the student member and resident member of the Committee on Ethics shall be carried out in accordance with the Association’s Operating Rules and Procedures”) in its entirety because these positions are covered under section 12.3.1, which allows any eligible member to apply for the positions on the Committee on Ethics; and
- remove references under section 12.3.3 to nominations by “any affiliate society representing medical students” and “any affiliate society representing medical residents” because applicants for student and resident positions no longer need to be nominated by the Canadian Federation of Medical Students or Resident Doctors of Canada, respectively (note: Resident Doctors of Canada no longer has individual members).
### Current wording

12.3 Nominations Rules and Process

12.3.1 Any member of the Association may submit nominations for the offices of AGM Chair/Speaker and AGM Vice-Chair/Deputy Speaker, Chair and all members of the Committee on Ethics, members of the committees on Ethics and Nominations, and elected members of the Audit and Finance, Governance and Appointments committees.

12.3.2 Nominations for the student member and resident member of the Committee on Ethics shall be carried out in accordance with the Association’s Operating Rules and Procedures.

12.3.3 Nominations for the Board of Directors will be made to the Committee on Nominations in accordance with the following:

   (a) Nominations for provincial/territorial directors may be submitted by any member of the Association who resides in the province/territory.

   (b) Nominations for the student director may be submitted by any affiliate society representing medical students, or by any Association member of any affiliate society representing medical students. Only student members shall be eligible to be nominated.

### Proposed amendments (deletions are struck out; insertions are underlined)

12.3 Nominations Rules and Process

12.3.1 Any **eligible** member of the Association may submit nominations for the offices of AGM Chair/Speaker and AGM Vice-Chair/Deputy Speaker, Board directors, Chair and all **elected** members of the Committee on Ethics, and **elected members** of the committees on Ethics and Nominations, and **elected members** of the Audit and Finance, Governance and Appointments committees.

12.3.2 Nominations for the student member and resident member of the Committee on Ethics shall be carried out in accordance with the Association’s Operating Rules and Procedures.

12.3.3 Nominations for the Board of Directors will be made to the Committee on Nominations in accordance with the following:

   (a) Nominations for provincial/territorial positions may be submitted by any member of the Association who resides in that province/territory.

   (b) Nominations for the student positions may be submitted by any student member of the Association.

   (c) Nominations for the resident positions may be submitted by any resident member of the Association.

### If adopted, the wording will read

12.3 Nominations Rules and Process

12.3.1 Any eligible member of the Association may submit nominations for the offices of AGM Chair/Speaker and AGM Vice-Chair/Deputy Speaker, Board directors, Chair and all elected members of the Committee on Ethics, and elected members of the committees on Ethics and Nominations, and elected members of the Audit and Finance, Governance and Appointments committees.

12.3.2 Applications will be made to the Committee on Nominations in accordance with the following:

   (a) Applications for provincial/territorial positions may be submitted by any member of the Association who resides in that province/territory.

   (b) Applications for the student positions may be submitted by any student member of the Association.

   (c) Applications for the resident positions may be submitted by any resident member of the Association.
## Motion AGM-3 – Affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions

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<tr>
<td>(c) Nominations for the resident director may be submitted by any affiliate society representing residents, or by any Association member of any affiliate society representing residents. Only resident members shall be eligible to be nominated.</td>
<td>(c) <strong>Nominations Applications</strong> for the resident director <strong>positions</strong> may be submitted by any resident member of the Association, affiliate society representing residents or by any Association member of any affiliate society representing residents. Only resident members shall be eligible to be nominated.</td>
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</table>

### Section 11.5 (Vacancies) and Chapter 12 (Nominations)

To further affirm the CMA’s autonomy to select its own leadership and provide greater clarity and transparency for members and partner organizations, the CMA Board proposes the following amendments under section 11.5 and chapter 12 of the bylaws because leadership candidates are no longer nominated by a third-party organization:

- replace, where appropriate, the term “nomination” with “leadership positions”;
- replace, where appropriate, the term “nominee” with “candidate” or “applicant” to accurately distinguish between existing process stages: “applicants” (those who submit a form); “candidates” (those deemed eligible for consideration); and final “nominees” (those presented to General Council for approval); and
- clarify that the process for the President-Elect to be nominated is set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures and remove language that is redundant with the proposed amendment to section 12.2.2 in motion AGM-2.
## Motion AGM-3 – Affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions

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<td>11.5.3 A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors, as follows:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) A vacancy among the student and resident directors shall be filled by the Board with a nominee from the constituency concerned for the remainder of the incumbent’s term.</td>
<td>(a) A vacancy among the student and resident directors shall be filled by the Board with a candidate nominee from the constituency concerned for the remainder of the incumbent’s term.</td>
<td>(a) A vacancy among the student and resident directors shall be filled by the Board with a candidate from the constituency concerned for the remainder of the incumbent’s term.</td>
</tr>
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<td>(b) A vacancy among the provincial/territorial directors shall be filled by the Board with a nominee from the constituency concerned, until the end of the next AGM and General Council meeting.</td>
<td>(b) A vacancy among the provincial/territorial directors shall be filled by the Board with a candidate from the constituency concerned, until the end of the next AGM and General Council meeting.</td>
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</tr>
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Chapter 12 Nominations

12.2 Eligibility for Nomination

12.2.1 Except for the position of non-physician director, only members of the Association who are members of the medical profession shall be eligible to apply for leadership positions. All applicants are subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures. All applicants must be residents of Canada.
**Motion AGM-3 – Affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions**

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| 12.2.2 Only members of the Association who have been members for 5 consecutive years preceding their nomination shall be eligible for nomination to the positions of President-Elect, AGM Chair/Speaker and AGM Vice-Chair/Deputy Speaker. Nominees for President-Elect are subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures. | [Note: if AGM-2 is passed, there will be a new section 12.2.2 and the following section will be numbered 12.2.3]  
12.2.2.3 Only members of the Association who have been members for 5 consecutive years preceding their nomination **application** shall be eligible for nomination to the positions of President-Elect, AGM Chair/Speaker and AGM Vice-Chair/Deputy Speaker. **Applicants Nominees** for President-Elect are subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures. | [Note: if AGM-2 is passed, there will be a new section 12.2.2 and the following section will be numbered 12.2.3]  
12.2.3 Only members of the Association who have been members for 5 consecutive years preceding their application shall be eligible for nomination to the positions of President-Elect, AGM Chair/Speaker and AGM Vice-Chair/Deputy Speaker. Applicants for President-Elect are subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines as set out in the Operating Rules and Procedures. |
| [...] | [...] | [...] |
| 12.3.4 Any member, division, or the Nominations Committee in the case of a nominee from Quebec, may submit a nomination for the Office of President-Elect, in accordance with the Association’s Operating Rules and Procedures. | 12.3.4 **Any member, division, or the Nominations Committee in the case of a candidate nominee from Quebec, may apply submit a nomination for the Office of President-Elect, in accordance with the Association’s Operating Rules and Procedures.** The President-Elect nominee will be selected through a process established in the Operating Rules and Procedures. | 12.3.4 The President-Elect nominee will be selected through a process established in the Operating Rules and Procedures. |
| [...] | [...] | [...] |
| 12.4 Responsibilities of the Committee on Nominations | 12.4 Responsibilities of the Committee on Nominations | 12.4 Responsibilities of the Committee on Nominations |
| 12.4.1 The primary task of the Committee on Nominations shall be to recruit and secure strong balanced leadership for the Association. In particular, the duties of the Committee on Nominations shall be as follows: | 12.4.1 The primary task of the Committee on Nominations shall be to recruit and secure strong balanced leadership for the Association. In particular, the duties of the Committee on Nominations shall be as follows: | 12.4.1 The primary task of the Committee on Nominations shall be to recruit and secure strong balanced leadership for the Association. In particular, the duties of the Committee on Nominations shall be as follows: |
# Motion AGM-3 – Affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions

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<td>(a) to issue a call to all members, divisions and affiliate societies, not less than 9 months prior to the next AGM, for nominations for the following elected positions in the Association: President Elect, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of General Council/AGM, directors, the Chair of the Committee on Ethics and all members of the committees on Ethics and Nominations. The call for nominations shall also include, subject to vacancies arising; up to 2 members of the Governance Committee, up to 2 members of the Audit and Finance Committee and 1 member of the Appointments Committee. Only nominations received at least 5 months prior to the AGM, or made by the Committee on Nominations as in 12.3.4(a) or 12.4.1(e), shall be eligible for ratification by General Council;</td>
<td>(a) to issue a call to all members, divisions and affiliate societies, not less than 9 months prior to the next AGM, for nominations applications for the following elected positions in the Association: President Elect, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of General Council/AGM, directors, the Chair of the Committee on Ethics and all members of the committees on Ethics and Nominations. The call for nominations applications shall also include, subject to vacancies arising; up to 2 members of the Governance Committee, up to 2 members of the Audit and Finance Committee and 1 member of the Appointments Committee. Only nominations applications received at least 5 months prior to the AGM, or made by the Committee on Nominations as in 12.3.4(a) or 12.4.1(e), shall be eligible for ratification by General Council;</td>
<td>(a) to issue a call to all members, divisions and affiliate societies, not less than 9 months prior to the next AGM, for applications for the following elected positions in the Association: President Elect, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of General Council/AGM, directors, the Chair of the Committee on Ethics and all members of the committees on Ethics and Nominations. The call for applications shall also include, subject to vacancies arising, up to 2 members of the Governance Committee, up to 2 members of the Audit and Finance Committee and 1 member of the Appointments Committee. Only applications received at least 5 months prior to the AGM, or made by the Committee on Nominations as in 12.4.1(e), shall be eligible for ratification by General Council;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) to interact with divisions and affiliates and the membership to seek and encourage nominations applications that reflect the diversity and demography of the physician population, specifically with a sensitivity to age, gender, sexual identity, ethnicity/race, Indigeneity, disability and regional balance, and</td>
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### Motion AGM-3 – Affirm members’ autonomy in applying for leadership positions

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<tr>
<td>(b) to interact with divisions and affiliates and the membership to seek and encourage nominations that reflect the diversity and demography of the physician population, specifically with a sensitivity to age, gender, sexual identity, ethnicity/race, Indigeneity, disability and regional balance, and the requirements of the Association regarding the specific vacancies to be filled, including seeking candidates who are willing to serve two consecutive three year terms;</td>
<td>the requirements of the Association regarding the specific vacancies to be filled, including seeking candidates who are willing to serve two consecutive three year terms;</td>
<td>disability and regional balance, and the requirements of the Association regarding the specific vacancies to be filled, including seeking candidates who are willing to serve two consecutive three year terms;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) to establish and maintain a process to enable nominees to indicate their eligibility and commitment;</td>
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<td>(d) to establish a process to ensure that all nominees for the position of director understand and agree to commit to the responsibilities of the office;</td>
<td>to establish a process to ensure that all candidates nominees for the position of director understand and agree to commit to the responsibilities of the office;</td>
<td>(d) to establish a process to ensure that all candidates for the position of director understand and agree to commit to the responsibilities of the office;</td>
</tr>
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<td>(e) In the event that no eligible nominations for any position are placed before it, the committee may select a nominee of its choice; [...]</td>
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</table>
Motion AGM-4 – Clarify AGM notices in the digital age

**Proposed motion:** The bylaw amendments to clarify Annual General Meeting (AGM) notices in the digital age (*under section 9.1*) included in Appendix B of the Canadian Medical Association 2024 Report to Members are hereby adopted as the bylaws of the Association.

Below is an explanation of the provision that is contemplated as part of the above motion.

**Section 9.1 (Annual General Meeting)**

The CMA provides notice of the AGM by way of emailing all members and publishing a notice on its website.

To affirm existing and intended future practice, the CMA Board proposes amending bylaw section 9.1 to replace the reference to notice via “an Association publication with distribution to all members” with “electronic notice to all members.”

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<tr>
<td>Annual General Meeting 9.1 There shall be an AGM at a time and place to be decided by the Board of Directors. The time and place shall be announced to the membership in an Association publication with distribution to all members as early as possible and at least 30 days prior to the meeting.</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting 9.1 There shall be an AGM at a time and place to be decided by the Board of Directors. The time and place shall be announced to the membership in an Association publication with distribution to all members by means of electronic notice to all members as early as possible and at least 30 days prior to the meeting.</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting 9.1 There shall be an AGM at a time and place to be decided by the Board of Directors. The time and place shall be announced by means of electronic notice to all members as early as possible and at least 30 days prior to the meeting.</td>
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Motion AGM-5 – Editorial changes to ensure readability and flow

**Proposed motion:** The bylaw amendments included in the 2024 Report to Members as Appendix B are confirmed as the bylaws of the Association; and in order to finalize such bylaws, the Board of Directors is hereby authorized to make such changes to the bylaws as may be required to ensure consistency and coherence throughout.

Note: The proposed bylaw amendments in this document include additions that require renumbering of subsequent sections.

[View the complete, current version of the CMA bylaws.](#)