
CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING

The CMA Board (“the Board”) met in late February 2021 by videoconference for a strategic planning workshop, a business meeting, and two professional development sessions. Highlights include:

Strategic Planning Workshop

- Building on the recently approved strategic goals under the Impact 2040 strategic opportunity areas (the future of health, the health system, and the health workforce), the Board heard about work being undertaken by staff to develop specific strategic initiatives and the expected roll-out of workplans. A high level framework which maps across three time horizons (over the next 20 years) was shared with the Board and will guide staff in its continued implementation planning phase.
- The Board also received a presentation on the marketing and communications plan for Impact 2040. The plan will see the CMA raising awareness, relevance, and engagement, with an aim to inspire physicians, learners, stakeholders, and patients to join a movement to call for major changes in Canadian health care, to build enthusiasm for what Impact 2040 can achieve, and to sustain commitment to the cause.

Business Meeting

- Directors heard from the CMA Presidents on their recent activities, which have focused on the CMA’s continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccine rollout plans, calls to action to the First Ministers to reform the health care system, national standards for seniors’ care, and addressing instances of bullying of health care professionals. Concurrently, the Presidents have been engaging with stakeholders (PTMAs, government leaders, learners, and patients) on a number of other topics, including equity and diversity in medicine, climate change, virtual care, and Impact 2040.
- The CEO highlighted that the CMA made the list of the top 100 advocacy organizations in Canada in 2020 and has been experiencing very high levels of both stakeholder and employee engagement.
- Due to ongoing uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated recovery plans, the Board decided to replicate the timing and sequencing of the virtual 2021 Health Summit, Annual General Meeting (AGM) and General Council elections in 2022. In both years, the Health Summit will be delivered as two virtual events in spring/summer, leading up to a third and final event alongside the AGM and General Council elections in August. In 2023, these events will move to a spring timeframe and an in-person/hybrid format.
- The Board approved bringing forward bylaw changes to the AGM in August 2021 to provide for national elections for the position of CMA President-Elect, while continuing with the geographic rotation of candidates.
- Directors approved the CMA Governance Committee’s recommendation to enhance the focus on skills and diversity considerations when filling vacancies on the Board and its Committees. Directors also received a presentation on the associated communications and outreach plan, which will include the CMA partnering with the PTMAs to broaden the talent pool of underrepresented groups.
- The Board approved a revised and updated Firearms Control Policy following extensive consultation, the slate of 2021 CMA honorary members, and the bestowing of the inaugural Dr. Ashok Muzumdar Memorial Award for Physicians with Disabilities. Names of award recipients will be released publicly at the time of the AGM in August 2021.

Professional Development Sessions

- Directors from the CMA Enterprise Boards participated in the screening of a new film series funded and supported by the CMA highlighting the impacts of systemic racism in health care as experienced by Indigenous Peoples, followed by a facilitated panel discussion with Indigenous leaders. The film and associated educational resources will be released in the coming months. The CMA Board also received unconscious bias training as part of their ongoing professional development plan.