CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUMMARY OF December 2021 MEETING

The CMA Board ("the Board") met in early December 2021 by videoconference to advance work on integrated health workforce planning, hear from an expert in association membership and engagement, and conduct other Board business. Highlights include:

Impact 2040 Strategy

• Board members engaged in an in-depth discussion on the concept of Developing a Pan-Canadian Integrated Health Human Resource Planning Framework, one of the first Impact 2040 Priority Strategic Initiatives (PSIs) being executed. Key discussion points included what the CMA’s role will be, how the planning framework will differ from past attempts in this arena, and the need for integration and collaboration across jurisdictions and disciplines.

• The Board also received a presentation on the future of membership from Ms. Sarah Sladek, who spoke about the current trends and recent disruptive forces that are changing the association landscape. She compared and contrasted different generations and how their values, expectations and needs can be vastly different and require a tailored approach to increase engagement.

Business Meeting

• The Board was advised that the CMA enterprise received significant attention in response to a November 2021 report that was commissioned by the CMA, titled A struggling system: Understanding the health care impacts of the pandemic.

• CMA President Dr. Katharine Smart highlighted that she attended the recent announcement in Ottawa on Bill C-3, which would amend the Canada Labour Code and the Criminal Code to include offences for intimidating healthcare workers and those accessing health services, and for impeding access to medical facilities.

• Dr. Smart continues to speak out on behalf of the profession, addressing both current and emerging issues affecting physicians and healthcare as well as communicating to key stakeholders about Impact 2040. She noted that ongoing advocacy work is needed to combat pandemic and vaccine-related misinformation, protect physicians from online threats, help promote pediatric COVID-19 vaccination efforts, and take further action towards anti-racism and reconciliation.

• The CEO noted that the adoption of an Enterprise Mandate Statement in October 2021 (The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is the voice of Canada’s physicians. As an influential thought leader and capacity-builder, we are dedicated to being a catalyst for impactful change in health, the health system, and the health workforce.) has helped the CMA more clearly communicate strategic goals and initiatives both internally with staff and externally with potential partners and stakeholders.

• The Board decided to revise the President-Elect nomination/election activities in response to multiple extraordinary converging events (e.g., ongoing flooding issues in British Columbia, other pressures on the profession in the province and the uncertainty associated with the new COVID-19 Omicron variant).

• The Board received an update on planning activities for the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and recommendations – grounded in external stakeholder feedback commissioned by the CMA on the 2021 AGM – with respect to member engagement and communications around future governance changes, time allocations and sequencing of agenda items, and logistical considerations.

• The CMA Board appointed Dr. Marcia Clark as the Member-at-Large on the Appointments Committee for a three-year term.

Mission: Empowering and caring for patients
Vision: A vibrant profession and a healthy population
Guiding Principles: Equity, diversity, engagement, accountability, transparency, impact