

CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 2019 MEETING SUMMARY

The CMA Board of Directors met on Oct. 16-17, 2019. The following is a summary of discussions, updates received and related events.

Strategic Planning – The CMA works in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to advance the issues that matter to our members and ensure we effect meaningful change in health and health care. Our guiding principles (accountability, transparency, engagement, impact and equity and diversity) will frame our decisions and actions.

The Board has been prioritizing the issues it believes the CMA enterprise should actively be advancing to realize its vision of a vibrant profession and a healthy population including continuing to address physician health and wellness while also exploring access to care as another flagship issue. Within these two areas the Board discussed which problems it should aim to solve, what impact the CMA might have, and why the association should play a role in driving change. A number of areas of focus for the CMA to continue to evolve were also identified including virtual care, climate and health, financial wellbeing and social innovation. The Board will finalize its strategic priorities and the 2020 action plan when it meets in December.

Presidents advance CMA advocacy and policy work on federal election and physician health– Our leaders have been very active in the past few months. Here are some highlights:

- CMA President Dr. Sandy Buchman participated in the launch of the CMA’s federal election campaign, met with several candidates, and held interviews with many major outlets. Our messaging focused on how health care should be on the agenda for federal leaders, as polls show Canadians rank it as top issue.
- Dr. Buchman also hosted a press conference along with the Canadian Association of Social Workers, the Canadian Nurses Association and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, where we called on federal party leaders to commit to establishing a targeted \$1.2 billion Primary Health Care Transition Fund to support the establishment of the sustainable medical home model across the country.
- President-Elect Dr. Ann Collins participated in the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Seniors’ Care Panel as well as the Climate Change walk in Fredericton. Many directors and staff also participated in Climate Change walks in various locations across Canada.
- Immediate Past President Dr. Gigi Osler was in St. John’s for the sixth Canadian Conference on Physician Health, where she also participated in two panels: Linking Physician Leadership and Physician Health; and Gender Equity, Diversity and Unconscious Bias. At the conference, we also released new data from our National Physician Health Survey, providing more insight into the impact of workplace issues on physician health and wellness.
- With news coming last month that Canada had its first case of respiratory illness linked to vaping, the CMA has been partnering with other leading health care organizations to call the federal government to action and restrict the marketing of vaping products.

2019 Federal election strategy – The CMA has been effective in “getting health care back on the agenda” during the 2019 federal election. Our focus has been on access to care, seniors’ care, virtual care, pharmacare, youth mental health and climate change and health. More than 8,500 Canadians sent over 67,000 letters to candidates and leaders using CMA’s platform.

Post-election day, the CMA will continue to engage with the party that forms government and the other parties in Parliament to keep health at the forefront.

Health Policy Initiatives

- The Board endorsed the Canadian Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines for Homeless and Vulnerably Housed Persons developed by the Homeless Health Research Network.
- The Board also supported consultation on a CMA draft Policy on Equity and Diversity in Medicine.

Work continues to promote policy avenues such as communities of interest, member proposals, and other events. Visit cma.ca to learn more.

Member Engagement – Plans are underway to hold 8 regional member forums in 2020. We look forward to hearing your thoughts as we again take to the road to meet with you in different locations across Canada. Stay tuned for further details.

Health Summit | Annual General Meeting | General Council – Join us in Halifax next August (Friday August 21 to Sunday August 23) as the CMA hosts its 3rd Health Summit, with an overarching theme centered on the need to transform health care. We will also hold our AGM, General Council elections and Awards Gala. These meetings form part of the CMA’s ongoing engagement with members, as our presidents and the full Board continues to seek input from members on issues of importance.

Governance – The Board supported, pending approval of bylaw amendments next August, to revise the terms of reference for the Nominations Committee to increase term lengths for committee members from 1 year to 3 years, renewable once. Student and resident members’ terms would continue to be 1 year, renewable twice.

The CMA is also working to ensure continued engagement and presence in Quebec as a result of the pending dissolution of the Quebec Medical Association. The Governance Committee will be reviewing potential bylaw amendments to facilitate the Quebec physician voice at the national level. The CMA continues to proactively look for opportunities to reach out to Quebec physicians in a series of programs, including group insurance, and to promote engagement opportunities (e.g., physician executives, students, RMFs 2020). We are also working to engage with Quebec physicians whose interests and backgrounds make them good candidates for different engagement opportunities within CMA; most recent example being within the physician health and wellness portfolio.

Professional Development – The Board participated in a session on strategic board effectiveness as well as this year’s National Health Policy Conference, which focused on virtual care.