CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2021 MEETING

The CMA Board (“the Board”) met in mid-October 2021 by videoconference for its first meeting of the 2021-2022 association year in order to finalize the Impact 2040 strategy and conduct other Board business. Highlights include:

Impact 2040 Strategy
• The Board approved the following enterprise mandate statement: 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.
• Shifting from strategy development to strategy execution, the Board received presentations on how Impact 2040 will be operationalized. Multi-faceted and multi-stakeholder problem statements and impact metrics will be developed for each of the seven priority strategic initiatives.
• CMA President Dr Katharine Smart led the Board in a facilitated plenary dialogue and breakout sessions to brainstorm and explore new ways to engage members and non-members in different types of settings and using novel modalities to connect.
• The Board also received a presentation on CMA Media, a new Impact 2040 initiative that aims to improve the health system and health policy media stories in Canada. The initiative will support capacity building by incubating physicians and patients as well as contributing directly to the Canadian media landscape.

Business Meeting
• Directors heard from CMA President Dr. Smart on her recent activities, including a high number of interviews and media statements that have garnered significant attention on topics such as the ongoing COVID-19 crisis situation in some Canadian provinces, back to school plans, and greater protection for health care workers. Dr. Smart continues to speak on behalf of the profession when advocating at the federal level for improvements to the health care system and calling for more action towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. She has also helped host roundtable discussions on equity, diversity, and inclusion, including a webinar for potential CMA President-Elect candidates from British Columbia.
• The CEO highlighted the results of a recent Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) survey of CMA employees.
• The Board received an update that the CMA Investco portfolio is now fully compliant with fossil fuel divestment to reduce the enterprise’s overall carbon footprint.
• Directors were engaged in an information technology security session to learn more about safeguards, policies, processes, and events underway to help ensure the highest levels of security are maintained across the enterprise.
• They also learned that the 2022 CMA Health Summit will remain a fully virtual event, with three different sessions delivered on three different types of virtual platforms. The CMA is currently reviewing the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and an update on plans for the 2022 AGM will be provided at the Board meeting in December.
• The Board approved two policy positions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first policy includes recommendations to strongly encourage physicians to voluntarily disclose their vaccination status to their patients and calls for mandatory vaccination of all health care workers. The second policy addresses global intellectual property related to the COVID-19 vaccine and includes recommendations for the Government of Canada to participate in global dialogue to increase vaccine production/equitable distribution and to support a temporary intellectual property waiver to increase vaccine supply/distribution.

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