

CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

The CMA Board of Directors met on Feb. 28–29, 2020, in Ottawa. A summary of their key discussions, updates and related events follows.

2020 work plan – Executing on the CMA’s flagship issues

The board reviewed work underway on the CMA’s two flagship issues — access to care, and physician health and wellness — as well as on its areas of focus — physician financial well-being, virtual care, and climate and health.

Since the start of the year, the CMA has made three significant announcements in support of these strategic priorities:

- removing the *CMAJ* paywall to increase access to quality health information;
- partnering with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada to release the final report and recommendations of the Virtual Care Task Force; and
- opening the fifth round of Joule Innovation grants, with an increased granting envelope of \$500K and with categories focused on access to care and physician health and wellness.

The board discussed how the CMA is advancing its work in the following areas:

- **Physician health and wellness:** Recommendations from the recent national physician health and wellness analysis were presented, and the following themes emerged: awareness, availability & access, national standards & measurement, partnerships & advocacy, and information & knowledge. The board noted the need to address medical culture and to pursue advocacy with government, given that the CMA now has more robust data to demonstrate the effects of physician burnout on health care costs and the quality of patient care.
- **Access to care:** The CMA will be spearheading multiple national conversations in a variety of formats (e.g. virtual discussions, regional member forums) on access to care (and to primary care specifically), with a focus on physician resource planning, delivery models and shifting to team-based care.
- **Virtual care:** Nineteen recommendations arose out of the final report of the Virtual Care Task Force and an action plan is now being developed. The board endorsed the report and discussed possible activities to advance the task force’s recommendations; announcements will follow in the coming months.
- **Climate and health:** The CMA will help raise awareness of the link between climate and health through advocacy and partnerships and explore other ways the association can make an impact. More details will follow.
- **Financial well-being for physicians:** The CMA is looking at various options to improve physicians’ financial security throughout their career life cycle. The board will receive an update on this topic at its April 2020 meeting. The support being provided to the Alberta Medical Association (re: negotiated agreements) illustrates how the CMA can work in partnership with provincial and territorial medical associations (PTMAs) on this issue.

Strategy refresh gets underway

The meeting also marked the kickoff of the CMA's strategy refresh, which builds on the CMA's vision of a vibrant profession and a healthy population.

Through strategic dialogue and broad engagement, the board is investigating key health care trends and disruptions and what they mean for the health care system, patients, the medical profession and the CMA. Some of the emerging themes the board considered for this work included the following: evolving patient expectations, the changing role of physicians within health care teams, the emergence of artificial intelligence, and issues of equity and sustainability in the current health care system.

The board remains committed to the objectives outlined in the CMA 2020 strategic plan:

- to consistently bring a patient perspective to the work of the CMA;
- to engage in courageous, influential and collaborative dialogue and advocacy; and
- to unite and inspire physicians on health issues and causes that matter.

The board will continue to engage with members, partners, patients and other stakeholders through the regional member forums, the AGM/Health Summit and other channels to help shape the next iteration of its strategic plan.

Presidents advance CMA advocacy and policy work on flagship issues

The CMA's elected leaders have been very active in the past few months. Here are some highlights:

- CMA President Dr. Sandy Buchman and CMA President-elect Dr. Ann Collins attended the first four member forums to further the conversation with members about physician health and wellness, and access to care.
- Dr. Buchman visited six of our PTMAs over the past few months to share and receive feedback about our priority work areas; he also took the opportunity to visit local health facilities in the area.
- CMA Past President Dr. Gigi Osler and Dr. Buchman have met with medical students and residents across the country at a variety of events and speaking engagements so far this year.
- The CMA continues to champion equity and diversity in medicine and contribute to the ongoing discussions about medical assistance in dying, and the association has forged relationships with new members of the federal cabinet.

CMA Awards

- The board approved recommendations from the Awards Committee and noted that this year's award recipients will be announced on May 1, National Physicians' Day.
- In honor of the late Dr. Léo-Paul Landry, former CMA secretary general, the board approved renaming the CMA Medal of Service as the Dr. Léo-Paul Landry Medal of Service.

CMA President-elect Nominee — Dr. Katharine Smart

- CMA members from Yukon have chosen Dr. Katharine Smart as this year's president-elect nominee. Dr. Smart will be put forward as Yukon's candidate at the CMA's General Council meeting in Halifax this August; once her nomination is ratified at the meeting, she will become CMA president in 2021.

CMA activities in Quebec

- The CMA is continuing to prepare for the establishment of its new office in Quebec.
- Recruitment is underway for a director general to lead the CMA's work in the province.

Reports from enterprise boards

- Dr. Chris Carruthers presented the CMAH 2018 stewardship report, providing the CMA board with subsidiary updates for the enterprise.
- The board approved the appointment of Ms. Anne Marie O'Donovan as chair of the CMA Investco Inc. Board of Directors, effective March 1, 2020.

Other initiatives

- A risk management expert and CMA staff presented to the board on its role in enterprise risk management.
- The board conducted its annual policy review and rescinded as appropriate CMA policy documents, resolutions and briefs that were out of date or superseded by newer policy.

Health Summit, Annual General Meeting and General Council Elections

- The CMA Health Summit, Annual General Meeting and General Council Elections will take place in Halifax from Friday, Aug. 21, to Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020.
- Registration is now open at cma.ca/healthsummit2020.