

**CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 2019 MEETING SUMMARY**

The CMA Board of Directors met on March 1-2, 2019 in Ottawa. The following is a summary of their discussions and of updates received.

Strategic planning and CMA 2020 – priorities for 2019

Using the four key guiding principles (accountability, transparency, engagement and impact), the Board held a workshop to determine where the CMA should focus its efforts in 2019 based on the following corporate objectives:

- implement key governance initiatives and enterprise framework
- identify and execute on select issues and define the CMA’s role in social innovation and thought leadership
- select initiatives for execution under the Affinity Agreement
- strengthen CMA engagement with members and stakeholders on issues that matter to the profession and the public.



Staff will report back to the Board in May outlining the priorities selected and what impact could be achieved in 2019.

The Board also held a workshop to help identify focus areas for the CMA Foundation so that it can positively impact Canadians and their health through health equity. The insights provided will be leveraged by staff to inform the Foundation’s refreshed strategy.

Advocacy initiatives

CMA’s leadership has been very active in the past few months. Here are some highlights:

- Join Dr. Osler in a members-only discussion on our [new community engagement platform](#) to help feed into our new policy on diversity and inclusion in medicine to improve patient care; the discussion is open until April 1
- Dr. Osler pushed for action on climate change during a press event with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Dr. Buchman met with key stakeholders in London and Scotland to share what we’ve learned from the legalization of medical assistance in dying in Canada and will do so again in April in Australia
- While on her annual medical mission to Uganda in January, Dr. Osler connected with several health advocacy organizations, such as the Ugandan Medical Association and local health care providers
- Drs. Osler and Blackmer met with the British Medical Association to discuss global health, physician health and wellness, and equity and diversity
- We also engaged with members on social media on national licensure, physician wellness, women in medicine and diversity and held interviews on the role of physicians in addressing the opioid crisis
- Dr. Osler also connected with several medical student groups to speak about the importance of leadership and advocacy, and to highlight some of the ways they can [get involved](#) with the CMA’s work.

2019 Federal election strategy

As part of the first phase of CMA’s 2019 federal election strategy, the Board received a presentation on the political environment in the lead up to the federal election and lessons learned from recent provincial elections. Board members discussed tactics to ensure that health and health care are on all party platforms. They supported

mobilizing physicians and the public in support of CMA advocacy with targeted approaches and the need to talk about innovative solutions (e.g., national licensure, virtual care, digital therapies, etc.).

The CMA will also carry out public opinion research and explore perspectives on our priority issues: health human resources (virtual care, national licensure), vulnerable populations, youth mental health and addiction, and climate change and health. The CMA will also hold physician and public focus groups in March in Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and St. John's.

The findings from this research will also be delivered as part of briefings during intergovernmental ministerial meetings (i.e., Health Ministers May/June; Seniors' Ministers June). Results will be critical in informing the CMA's election campaign platform.

Other initiatives

The Board received an update on the first iteration of the 2019 Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) match results. Results of the second iteration will be presented to the Board in May.

The Board also heard a presentation on virtual care and removal of barriers to cross-border services.

[Policies approved](#) | [Reports endorsed](#)

- Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship Policy
- Head Injury and Concussion Policy
- Future of Medical Education in Canada – Continuing Professional Development Final Report
- College of Family Physicians of Canada's A New Vision for Canada Family Practice-The Patient's Medical Home

In addition, 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.

Regional Member Forums 2019

Engaged with 280 participants across four regions (over 90% rated experience 4 or 5 out of 5):

- Open dialogue generated forward thinking on topical issues (physician workforce and health and wellness issues); high appreciation by members of opportunity to interact freely with Board
- High interest in more engagement and dialogue opportunities in future
- High expectations of CMA as unifier of the profession and for leadership at the national level with positive support for CMA 2020.

Summary of key findings (full report will be made available later this spring):

- Support for Physician Health and Wellness as key priority
- Support for taking a national perspective on health and health care
- Increase control and flexibility in training and practice to decrease burnout and facilitate career transitions
- Technology/virtual care adoption stymied by payment, process and policy
- More supports required to foster diversity in the profession
- Perceived "under-valuing" of FP/GPs and other generalists; resulting gap in supply has impacts, for example, in rural medicine

[Physician health and wellness](#)

The CMA has surveyed physicians, developed policies and statements, held conferences nationally and internationally and collaborated with stakeholders. The work continues with a focus on physician health and wellness (beyond burnout) to change the culture and focus on resiliency, decrease stigma and improve access to services and support for all Canadian physicians and learners. Visit cma.ca/physician-health-and-wellness to learn more.



Relationships with key stakeholders

In an effort to better collaborate and align member-engagement activities with PTMAs and stakeholders, CMA and the Alberta Medical Association recently signed a memorandum of understanding to partner on joint initiatives that will advance shared priorities. Work continues on rolling out this initiative with other interested PTMAs and a similar initiative is being developed with affiliates and associated societies.

A joint meeting is planned in April with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to discuss areas of collaboration at the national level.

The CMA is also considering how best to further collaborate with the Quebec medical community to unite physicians in Quebec with their colleagues across Canada on issues of concern to the profession.

Health Summit | Annual General Meeting | General Council

The CMA will host its second Health Summit in Toronto, Aug. 12-13, 2019, with a theme centered around 'Connected in Care'. Building on the momentum of the first CMA Health Summit in 2018, this year's event will focus on creating connections; helping physicians connect to each other, to patients, to technology and to the future of health care. Registration is now open, please visit: <https://cmahealthsummit.ca/>.

The Annual General Meeting will also be held in Toronto on Sunday, Aug. 11, followed by General Council elections. The Awards Gala will take place on Sunday evening. A General Council policy session on virtual care will be integrated into the Health Summit on Tuesday (Aug. 13). Further details to follow.

In 2020, the Health Summit, including the General Council components and the AGM will move to spring (date/location TBA).

CMA–Scotia Affinity Agreement

In tandem with the sale of MD, Scotiabank and the CMA entered into a 10-year collaboration in support of physicians and the communities they serve (investment of \$115 million over 10 years) that will focus on physician wellness as a priority area. The agreement sees the CMA endorse [MD Financial Management](#) as a preferred financial provider for physicians.

CMA Leadership

The results of the [New Brunswick election for CMA President-Elect nominee](#) are in (subject to ratification at General Council this August). Please join us in congratulating Dr. Ann Collins.

Also join us in congratulating [Dr. Suzanne Strasberg, who has been appointed by the Board, the next Chair of the CMA Board of Directors](#) (effective Aug. 14, 2019 with a term of up to three years, renewable once).

The Board also re-appointed Amanda Whitewood and Ann Michael to the Joule Board of Directors (additional one-year terms).

The Board agreed to add an independent volunteer director to the CMA Foundation Board of Directors with expertise and experience in philanthropy and charitable giving.