CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DECEMBER 2018 MEETING SUMMARY

The CMA Board of Directors met on Dec. 7-8, 2018 in Ottawa. The following is a summary of their discussions and of updates received.

Strategic planning and CMA 2020 – priorities for 2019 and beyond

- The four key guiding principles for the CMA going forward (accountability, transparency, engagement and impact) have been further developed and a working definition is in place. Work will continue to define indicators and how to measure and report on the execution of the principles, especially Impact.
- Confirmation of priorities and workplan for 2019 (based on fit, focus and relevance where the CMA can leverage its position and influence to advance issues that are of national interest/scope requiring a medical perspective)
- Issues (or priorities) over the next 18 months: physician health, medical professionalism, end-of-life care, seniors’ care, opioids, cannabis, pharmacare and 2019 federal election
- Additional issues (or initiatives) planned for the longer term: global/international health (including the impact of climate change on health), (youth) mental health and addiction, health human resources (potentially exploring inequities, future disruptions, etc.), national licensure and virtual care (in collaboration with other stakeholders)

Advocacy initiatives

- The president is continuing the conversation about the need for greater diversity and inclusion in medicine to remove biases and take down barriers to improve patient care
- The president also continued the conversation on why physician health matters, and what impact it can have on patient experiences and health outcomes
- The president met with Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor and Seniors Minister Filomena Tassi on Dec. 5
- The President-Elect participated in the Homeless Health Summit and appeared before the Senate Social Affairs Committee on Bill S-248 (National Physicians’ Day)
- The CMA launched an advocacy campaign around the reinstatement of sick notes for short leaves in Ontario and submitted a brief stating our concerns with the move
- The CMA Patient Voice group met for the first time in Ottawa on Dec. 6. This provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the CMA and its strategic priorities and how they, as members of the public, are able to contribute to CMA’s success by sharing the patient experience
- CMA joined the Canadian Public Health Association in calling for the implementation of the Canada-specific recommendations presented in the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change. The CMA echoed the report’s findings that Canada must continue to show leadership in addressing climate change issues

National pharmacare

- Dr. Eric Hoskins, Chair of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, discussed with the Board some of the key considerations for successfully implementing a new program in Canada. Of note, they discussed potential models and system oversight, access for vulnerable populations and seniors, pricing and affordability, management of expensive and orphan drugs, outcomes and impact measurement
- The CMA’s brief, which included a recommendation to explore the feasibility of introducing universal public coverage of 125 essential medicines as a scalable approach to the introduction of national pharmacare, was submitted to Health Canada on Nov. 13

International/global health

- Representatives from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders presented on MSF initiatives for delivering high quality medical expertise all over the world including in some of the most hard-to-reach locations. The Board will explore the possibility of a future collaboration with MSF as part of a global/international health initiative.
2019 Federal election strategy

- As part of the first phase (Q1), CMA will host a listening tour (e.g., a series of public townhall meetings or other consultation mechanisms) to hear first-hand what matters most to members and Canadians about their health and the health care system and encourage Canada’s political leaders to take note as they develop election platforms.
- As part of the second phase (Q2-Q3), CMA will continue to connect with members and the public through a variety of platforms to build momentum and engage federal political parties.
- As part of the last phase (Q3), CMA plans to host community roundtables with local MPs and candidates and a leaders’ debate.
- CMA will also establish a rapid-response team in case an early election is called.

A new Code of Ethics and Professionalism

- After several rounds of consultation, including most recently at General Council 2018, the Board approved a new Code of Ethics and Professionalism. The new Code will be available on cma.ca shortly.

Policies/papers for consultation with members and key stakeholders

- Organ and tissue donation and transplantation (Update 2018)
- HIV/AIDS (Update 2018)

New policy development

- The Board supported developing new policy on decriminalizing problematic substance use and opioid substitution.

Member policy proposals - Update

- This new (pilot) process provides more opportunities for member input into CMA policy development with a year-round intake and consultation process.
- Policy proposals are reviewed by a physician review group; the Board may then refer proposals to a committee or working group for further consideration or consult as needed with members, provincial/territorial medical associations, affiliates, etc., or approve a proposal without consultation if it is non-controversial, supports a policy gap or requires little/no resources to implement.
- The Board approved the review group’s communication protocol to ensure transparency throughout the process.

Communities of Interest – Update

- The CMA is currently onboarding five communities of interest sponsored by grant winners: creating an inclusive and equitable medical community, Indigenous health, substance use, providing care to marginalized populations, and medically assisted dying assessors and providers.
- A soft launch is planned January 2019, with a broader launch later in Q1; the CMA will establish a process for members to launch discussion groups on our platform – unfunded but supported with resources and tools.
- The CMA also plans to launch in 2019 three types of communities: one for members and patients to engage directly with the CMA to give feedback on policies and priority areas; a second category to support programs or activities (e.g., ambassadors, advocacy programs); and a third focused on specific issues or causes (e.g., physician health).

CMA/PTMA activities

- A memorandum of understanding between the CMA and the Alberta Medical Association is in development; it will serve as a roadmap for describing future collaboration between CMA and individual PTMAs.
- Stakeholder consultations in Quebec will assist the CMA in developing options for its future presence in that province.
- Doctors of BC has opted to discontinue conjoint membership with the CMA.

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 Connecting Health — a pan-Canadian priority; further details to follow.
Plans for 2019 include holding General Council (elections and policy session) and Annual General Meeting (including the Awards Gala) in conjunction with the Health Summit in August in Toronto (Aug. 11-13); further details to follow

Governance

- The CMA has designated its Speaker Dr. Ernst Schuster and Deputy Speaker Dr. Melanie Bechard to chair the AGM in 2019
- The Bylaws and Operating Rules and Procedures reflecting the changes approved at the AGM in August will be available on cma.ca shortly
- A dedicated nominations and elections site was launched on cma.ca (includes updated materials, timelines and guidelines)
- A call for nominations for the President-Elect seat was sent to members of the New Brunswick Medical Society; new timelines were established to incorporate information sessions with interested candidates
- Collaboration is underway between the Committee on Nominations (working groups) and PTMAs/affiliates to seek and encourage nominations, where Board vacancies exist (NB, PEI, QC, RDoC and CFMS), that reflect the diversity and demography of the physician population
- The CMA has also updated its guidelines for court intervention to expand the CMA’s ability to engage on an exceptional basis in roles beyond intervener and venues beyond the Supreme Court of Canada (including the possibility of engaging in international fora on an exceptional basis). The revised policy will be on cma.ca shortly

MD Financial Management – CMA’s preferred financial provider – and Scotiabank sponsorship funding agreement

- In tandem with the sale of MD, Scotiabank and the CMA are entering into a 10-year collaboration in support of physicians and the communities they serve. This will see an affinity investment of $115 million over 10 years in projects and initiatives. The CMA will also exclusively promote MD as the preferred provider of financial products and services to Canadian physicians and their families
- The CMA plans to work closely with members to hear how the affinity commitments and proceeds from the sale can be used to build initiatives that support our vision of a vibrant profession and a healthy population. In early 2019, the CMA will hold four regional member forums to connect directly with members and start exploring the possibilities

CMA Enterprise

- The CMA has appointed a new Board of Directors for CMA Investco Inc., to oversee the investment and management of the assets from the sale of MD Financial. The new directors are:
  - Ms. Anne-Marie O’Donovan, Former Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Global Banking and Markets, Bank of Nova Scotia
  - Ms. Jill Pepall, Former Executive Vice President, Chief Investment Officer, Investment Management Corporation of Ontario
  - Ms. Gaelen Morphet, Former Chief Investment Officer, Sentry Investments, Inc.
  - Mr. George Vasic, Former Managing Director, Head Canadian Equity Research and Chief Economist, UBS Securities Canada, Inc.
  - Mr. Rob Jeffery, Executive Vice President, Armco Group of Companies, Halifax
  - Mr. Tim Smith, CMA Chief Executive Officer
- The CMA Foundation and Joule provided reviews of their respective activities during 2018 and noted their strategies and plans for 2019.