

# How to Become CMA President

---

## Nomination and election

Candidates for the position of CMA President-Elect may be nominated in the following ways:

- Members residing in the provincial/territorial medical association (PTMA) hosting the annual meeting at which the President-Elect will become President (that is, the next annual meeting, which rotates on a geographic basis) (see [schedule of upcoming annual meetings](#)) may present a nominee that they have chosen through an election open to CMA members in that jurisdiction
- A candidate may be nominated by any 50 CMA members, which must be received 90 days prior to the first day of the CMA's General Council
- A candidate may be nominated by five delegates at GC.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for nomination for President-Elect via the PTMA nominee route, a person must:

- be a member of the medical profession;
- be a member in good standing of the nominating PTMA and the CMA;
- have his/her registered mailing address in the nominating PTMA province;
- have been a CMA member for the preceding five (5) consecutive years; and
- agree to stand as a candidate.

## Process and relevant timeline

### Call for nominations:

**End October - End November**

- A call for nominations for the President-Elect nominee position is issued by the CMA for the PTMA hosting the annual meeting at which the President-Elect would officially become President (next annual meeting; see [schedule of upcoming annual meetings](#)).
- Candidates must submit a one-page letter of intent and a one-page résumé and photo.

### Committee on Nominations and interested candidates:

**early December**

- Interested candidates will be contacted by the CMA Nominations Committee and asked to participate in a teleconference meeting to discuss such topics as the role of the CMA President-Elect, the CMA's strategic direction, the elections process and guidelines.

### Final candidate material deadline:

**Mid December**

- Candidates submit the nomination paper, signed by 10 PTMA members in good standing residing in that jurisdiction, and include their final one-page letter of intent and a one-page résumé.

### Start of the election period for President-Elect nominees<sup>1</sup>:

**Early February**

- Election dates (2 week period) are announced in the Call for Nominations.
- Voting invitation and confidential PIN are emailed to CMA members in the PTMA host province with candidate information available on [cma.ca](#).
- Third-party secure voting site is open.

---

<sup>1</sup> Where there are more than two candidates seeking election as the nominee for CMA President-Elect, an election period is established. The voting for President-Elect is conducted electronically by preferential ranked choice ballot, which means that each voter is asked to rank the candidates in order of preference, instead of just voting for one candidate. In casting a vote, the voter indicates his/her first preference by entering "1" in the box beside that person's name, "2" beside their second choice, and so on. The voter is not required to rank all of the candidates.

### **Close of election: mid-February**

- When the voting period closes, the ballots are counted via a third-party election expert to ensure standard levels of accuracy and compliance with generally acceptable electoral processes. After the PTMA President-Elect nominee is identified, a third-party expert will conduct a post-vote audit of the elections and will provide the CMA with an e-report of the audit.

### **President-Elect nominee winner declared: mid-February**

- The name of the PTMA President-Elect nominee is communicated.

### **President-Elect election General Council (Spring TBD)**

- The President-Elect is elected by delegates of General Council.

## **Presidential duties**

Once elected, the CMA President-Elect will serve a three-year presidential term as a member of the CMA Board of Directors, holding the following three positions: President, President-Elect and Immediate Past President.

### **First term: President-Elect**

The President-Elect assists the President in performing the presidential duties. He or she is provided with training that may include orientation about the CMA and issues facing the association, how to deal with the media and other training, as required by organizational needs and individual competencies. The President-Elect assumes the office of President at the next annual meeting and serves as President for the subsequent association year.

### **Second term: President**

The President, as the association's senior elected officer and primary spokesperson, shall perform duties as custom requires such as attending the business sessions of the annual meeting. As well, she/he speaks at various annual meetings of the PTMAs and to parliamentary committees and stakeholder organizations.

Presidential duties are shared with the President-Elect and the immediate Past President to:

- allow for representation at more than one event, when there is a scheduling conflict
- ensure that the person with expertise on a given issue is speaking on the CMA's behalf
- ensure that the person with the appropriate language capacity is speaking on a given issue
- provide the President-Elect with opportunities to develop and hone his/her skills prior to assuming office

The President is expected to represent the association for some 200-220 days during the one-year term as president. The President, President-Elect and immediate Past President are each remunerated through an annual stipend and receive honoraria and maintenance allowances when on official CMA business. This helps compensate practising physicians for time away from their practices.

### **Third (final) term: Past President**

The immediate Past President serves on the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and as chair of the committee on nominations and presides over elections at General Council. Candidates for President-Elect are asked to consider in advance any potential conflicting responsibilities and duties, as well as timing constraints, should he/she decide to take on the role. The candidate may wish to consult the CMA Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest Guidelines, available upon request.

For further information see [CMA Bylaws](#) or contact CMA Governance Services at [CMAElections@cma.ca](mailto:CMAElections@cma.ca).

Note – Presidential stipend amounts are available to prospective candidates on request.