The Quebec Medical Association (QMA) is the only organization in Quebec that unites the province’s entire medical profession — medical students, residents, and practising as well as retired general practitioners and specialists. The QMA promotes medical leadership based on the values and principles of professionalism and organizes the medical profession to take positions and actions to improve the health care system and the well-being of the population. Thanks to its national affiliation, the QMA offers its members a variety of products and services, including online clinical resources, personalized financial management advice and flexible insurance plans designed for physicians. In Quebec, the Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ) is responsible for delivering practice licenses.

THE QMA: FOR THE PROFESSION
Free from any union affiliation, the QMA advocates for improved health care accessibility and quality, and plays a central role in changes to Quebec’s health care system. The QMA is on the ground, listening to its members and echoing their concerns, including on the following issues:
- The organization and governance of the health network (Bill 10).
- Access to health care and assisted procreation (Bill 20).
- Front-line work on the issue of incidental fees.
- Overdiagnosis: Considering that 18% to 37% of total health expenses in Quebec are attributable to non-required care, the QMA strives to raise awareness about over-diagnosis and overtreatment. The QMA launched the Choisir avec soin campaign, the French language version of Choosing Wisely Canada. Among other advances, the campaign has led to the creation of committees charged with reducing unnecessary care in several health care facilities in the province and played a role in attracting the 2017 International Preventing Overdiagnosis conference to Quebec City.
- Professionalism: In the current context where the profession and the status of physicians in society is being questioned, the QMA is offering meeting, discussion and decision-making opportunities to physicians, such as the 2015 Convention (The Medical Profession Time for a New Social Contract), the 2015 Symposium for Physician Executives (Physician Executives at the Centre of Change), 2016 Convention (Clinical Governance Time to Decide!), and the 2016 Symposium for Physician Executives (Managing is Adapting).
- Medical aid in dying: After the majority of citizens and physicians in Quebec expressed their support for medical aid in dying, the QMA submitted a brief to a parliamentary committee on end-of-life care, and also filed motions with the QMA’s General Council, to ensure respect for the population’s wishes while upholding the rights of physicians.

A UNIQUE OFFER OF MEDICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Many physicians in leadership positions trust the QMA’s expertise in medical leadership. The QMA is happy to offer a variety of training sessions to better equip them:
- PLU Leadership Program: Five two- to three-day courses for the development of leadership skills.
- Seminars: One-day training sessions on current issues to meet specific needs.

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OTHER USEFUL URLs
Collège des médecins du Québec: cmeq.org
Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux: msss.gouv.qc.ca
Québec Physicians’ Health Program: www.pamq.org/plan/