

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Yipeng Ge, CFMS Director of Government Affairs

2019 CFMS Annual General Meeting (AGM)

September 19-22, 2019, St. John's, NL

I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The CFMS Director of Government Affairs (Dir GA) is responsible for addressing the organization's commitment to representation through political advocacy initiatives at a local and national level, both for positive health systems change as well as issues of importance to the student experience of Canadian medical learners. They serve as an ex-officio member of the Government Affairs & Advocacy Representative Roundtable (GAART), organizes the CFMS National Day of Action in collaboration with the National Officer of Political Action (NOPA), coordinates position papers with collaboration with the National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP), and represents the CFMS on all issues of a political nature.

The Dir GA will also actively collaborate with the Director of Education on issues related to medical education that require political involvement. Finally, the Dir GA will represent the CFMS to various external committees and organizations as deemed necessary by the President and CFMS Board.

The CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Representative Roundtable (GAART) exists to both solicit the broader opinion of Canadian medical students on a wide variety of issues as well as to help take action at the local, provincial, and national levels. The CFMS GAART is composed of the Chair (Dir GA Attaché) and one to two representatives from each CFMS member school, selected by the individual medical societies. The mandate of the CFMS GAART includes, but is not limited to:

1. Provide a grassroots framework to determine and advocate for the interests of the CFMS and its membership;
2. Cultivate leadership and advocacy skills in CFMS membership, and provide further opportunities for involvement with CFMS;
3. Assist with and participate in CFMS national advocacy efforts.

II. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

CFMS 2019 Day of Action: Seniors Care and Aging

The CFMS National Day of Action is an annual event where medical students from across Canada gather on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to engage with Members of Parliament (MPs) and other federal policymakers on a pressing topic in Canadian healthcare and to advocate for evidence-based policy recommendations that will have a positive impact on the health of Canadians.

On February 4th, 2019, 76 medical students had 56 meetings with MPs, across the three major federal political parties, including meetings with Ministers, including the Minister of Seniors, Minister of Health, Minister of Veteran Affairs, Minister of Labour, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and President of the Treasury Board. Medical students outlined to policymakers the context of seniors' care and aging in Canada, the opportunities that this group has to offer, and our three policy recommendations that would help Canadians to age with dignity, and with access to necessary supports and appropriate resources. Our three policy recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Commit to targeted funding and development of a National Seniors Strategy for the 2019 federal election.
- 2) Commit to the development of a national evidence-based formulary as a first step towards designing and implementing a truly universal, comprehensive, and cost-effective National Pharmacare Program that provides access to drugs for all Canadians. Work in collaboration with national experts to promote targeted deprescribing to minimize polypharmacy.
- 3) Support national leadership on developing and tracking quality indicators, to enhance the quality of and access to home care, palliative care, and community care provided in the provinces/territories, at the next Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum.

Our medical learners are becoming increasingly aware of how the social determinants of health and politics affect the health of our patients. There is significant interest in medical learners to learn the skills of a

health advocate so that they can play an active role in shaping public policy and to create a healthier society for today and tomorrow.

Related links:

- Our summary report: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Day%20of%20Action%202019%20Follow-up%20Summary%20Report.pdf>
- Our background research document: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Seniors%20Care%20and%20Aging%20Backgrounder.pdf>
- Our consultation document: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Seniors%20Care%20and%20Aging%20Consultation.pdf>
- Our ask summary, handout to MPs: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Seniors%20Care%20and%20Aging%20Summary.pdf>
- Our press release: <https://www.cfms.org/news/2019/02/04/press-release-DoA.html>

Day of Action 2020: Topic/Issue to be determined

The CFMS Annual General Meeting will provide a space for dialogue to set ideas and agendas for the CFMS Day of Action 2020. The incoming Dir GA, National Officer of Political Action, and the Day of Action Research Committee have been hard at work to produce a short-list of ideas for Day of Action 2020 which will be revealed at CFMS AGM.

Federal Election Strategy and Engagement

The CFMS Advocacy portfolio has been hard at work for the past few months on a federal election strategy from the medical student perspective. We have created a toolkit for medical students to learn more about the federal election and ways to get involved politically (<https://www.cfms.org/news/2019/06/18/federal-election-strategy>), created a social media campaign asking medical students to think about why they vote titled #IVoteCan or #JeVoteCan, and an election primer outlining medical student identified issues and objective analysis of political party platforms and policies (check out www.cfmsvotes.ca when it launches!). We have also been working closely with the CMA (Canadian Medical Association) and other student, youth, and young professional organizations to collaborate efforts and involve medical students in the federal election process!

Health Human Resource Planning/Physician Resource Planning and the Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate

The CFMS is continually working across portfolios internally, and constantly advocating and communicating externally, to advance solutions and outcomes to better address the difficult issue of proper physician resource planning and the high number of unmatched Canadian medical graduates. The CFMS advocacy portfolio held advocacy meetings with federal MPs in late-April 2019 to discuss federal and national solutions, and our Atlantic Regional Director met again with the Minister of Health to discuss this issue. We also look forward to collaboration with the CMA (Canadian Medical Association) on this issue.

Committee on Health Policy (COHP)

The Committee on Health Policy has been hard at work over the past few months updating the CFMS advocacy tracker outlining our existing guiding documents and areas of advocacy related to guiding recommendations, reviewing and updating previous guiding documents, and reviewing and providing commentary for incoming papers submitted for AGM 2019. The Committee has also been assisting the development of the CFMS federal election strategy and election primer to engage medical students in the upcoming federal election.

Rapid Response Team

The Rapid Response Team made up of medical students interested in assisting the CFMS in developing materials in response to pertinent and dynamic public and healthcare issues, has formed for its second year and developing priorities to analyse and prepare supporting evidence and analysis for, including national physician licensure and the 2019 federal budget interpretation.

Targeted Task Forces

A variety of targeted task forces within the CFMS advocacy portfolio with representation of medical student membership from across Canada, have been working hard on strategies to move forward on a variety of issues impacting the health and wellbeing of Canadians. A handful of these targeted task forces have brought forward thoughtful and researched guiding documents for hopeful adoption by the assembly at AGM 2019. A few examples of these task forces include: Pharmacare, National Seniors Strategy, Homelessness, Criminal Justice Reform.

Local Initiatives

A multitude of advocacy efforts at local and provincial levels by medical student leaders are certainly worth highlighting and commending for their tremendous leadership and efforts to advance medical learner issues and health systems concerns to enhance the health of Canadians in their communities. A few examples of such work include:

- University of British Columbia medical students call for increased residency spots to curb doctor shortage in the province: <https://globalnews.ca/video/5021666/ubc-medical-students-push-for-more-residency-training-spots>
- University of Saskatchewan medical students call on provincial health ministry for universal access to abortion pill: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/mifegymiso-abortion-pill-universal-access-saskatchewan-1.5064647>
- University of Alberta and University of Calgary medical students call on Alberta government to take action on province's low rate of organ donors: <https://www.thestar.com/edmonton/2018/12/02/medical-students-calling-on-government-to-take-action-on-albertas-low-rate-of-organ-donors.html>
- Memorial University of Newfoundland medical students call for insulin pump coverage for all Newfoundland and Labrador residents: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/insulin-pumps-newfoundland-1.5070701>
- University of Manitoba medical student leaders call for coverage for HIV prevention pill: <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/hiv-prevention-pill-should-be-free-for-high-risk-patients-medical-students-1.4328868>
- University of Western Ontario medical students call for including naloxone kits in city facilities: <https://lfpress.com/news/local-news/naloxone-kits-coming-to-city-recreational-facilities-london-council-decides>

III. ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended:

<u>Meeting Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
CFMS Annual General Meeting 2018	September 20-23, 2018	Montreal, QC
Medical Council of Canada Annual Meeting	September 23-25, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Day of Action Committee Meeting	September 26, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	September 30, 2018	Teleconference
Phone call with David (National Officer of Health Policy)	October 2, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS Board Meeting Teleconference	October 4, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting re: Homeless Health Summit and Homelessness Task Force, with Dr. Kevin Pottie and Shanza Hashmi (past NOHP)	October 10, 2018	Phone Call

Meeting with CMA Political Action team re: CMA Very Involved Physicians Program	October 12, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Debbie (Ontario Regional Director and Govt Affairs Dyad Partner)	October 12, 2018	Phone Call
Phone call with uOttawa GAAC team re: municipal lobby day	October 12, 2018	Phone Call
CMA National Health Policy Conference	October 14, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Medical Association (OMA) President's Tour – District 8 Meeting	October 16, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Event organized by Ottawa Health Law: Café Scientifique: The Law, Policy and Ethics of Legal Cannabis	October 17, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Federal Election Strategy Team Meeting	October 20, 2018	Teleconference
GAAC National Teleconference Meeting	October 21, 2018	Teleconference
FMEQ + CFMS Meeting on Lobby Day/Day of Action Teleconference	October 22, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Fall Board Meeting	October 26-28, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with CMA Political Action Team re: CMA Advocacy Training for medical students	October 30, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with MPP John Fraser (Ottawa South), discussing unmatched medical graduates, seniors care	November 2, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Debbie (Ontario Regional Director and Govt Affairs Dyad Partner) at OMSW	November 3, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call interview with Taylor Blewett re: CFMS position paper on legalization of recreational cannabis	November 4, 2018	Phone Call
Maclean's Parliamentarian of the Year event with CMA, as uOttawa CMA Ambassador	November 5, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS GHA National Teleconference	November 5, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Science Policy Conference 2018	November 7-9, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	November 11, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Assembly of First Nations Health File and CFMS National Officer of Indigenous Health (Joshua Nash)	November 13, 2018	Phone Call
Event by uOttawa Health Law: Mapping the Evidence for Social and Public Policy	November 13, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Alex and Paddy (Co-Leads of CFMS Rapid Response Team)	November 14, 2018	Teleconference
Day of Action Research Committee Meeting	November 15, 2018	Teleconference

Canadian Global Health Students and Young Professionals Summit (GHSYPS)	November 18, 2018	Toronto, ON
CFMS Committee on Health Policy Meeting	November 18, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Meeting (Absent)	November 18, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Conference on Global Health	November 19-21, 2018	Toronto, ON
Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) Annual General Meeting	November 19, 2018	Toronto, ON
Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) Annual General Meeting	November 20, 2018	Toronto, ON
CMA Annual Party on the Hill with MPs and Physician Leaders	November 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Homeless Health Summit	November 26-28, 2018	Toronto, ON
Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Finance Committee Teleconference Meeting	November 26, 2018	Teleconference
CHLNet Leadership Dialogue on Empowering Women Leaders	November 28, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Climate Change event on "Getting to Zero", Justice Transitions and Political Will	November 28, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National Day of Action Research Committee Meeting	November 28, 2018	Teleconference
Interviews for CFMS National Day of Action Coordinator at CFMS Office	November 30, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Alastair Spriggs re: CFMS position paper on legalization of recreational cannabis	November 30, 2018	Phone Call
Canadian Health Coalition Event on Talking Across Silos in Canada's Health Movements	December 1, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Silvio (OMSA Director of Representation)	December 1, 2018	Phone Call
Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly	December 4-5, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Medical Association (OMA) Physician Advocacy Day at Queen's Park	December 6, 2018	Toronto, ON
Meeting with Dr. Frank Molnar (Canadian Geriatrics Society President)	December 7, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with CFMS Pharmacare Task Force leads (Bart and Hilary)	December 9, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS Committee on Health Policy Meeting	December 9, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	December 9, 2018	Teleconference
National Geriatrics Interest Group (NGIG) Teleconference Meeting	December 12, 2018	Teleconference

CFMS National Day of Action Research Committee Meeting	December 12, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with CFMS uCMG File Co-Leads (Avrilynn and Ailish), with OMSA Director of Representation (Silvio) and Ontario Regional Director (Debbie)	December 15, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Meeting	December 16, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Linda Lam, National Officer of Political Action	December 23, 2018	Toronto, ON
CFMS Winter Board Meeting	January 5-6, 2019	Toronto, ON
Meeting with MD Financial Management to review building and room for Day of Action weekend	January 8, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Touch base phone call with Rebecca, GAAC at MUN	January 9, 2019	Phone Call
NDoA Research Committee Meeting	January 11, 2019	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference	January 13, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting with RDocs Practice Committee working on National Physician Licensure advocacy	January 14, 2019	Teleconference
Phone call with Editor from the Lobby Monitor news outlet regarding Day of Action	January 16, 2019	Phone Call
Phone call with Minister Chagger's Office regarding room booking for Day of Action	January 16, 2019	Phone Call
Visit CFMS Office to pick up Day of Action supplies	January 16, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Holly and Kelsey, of CMA Political Action team regarding training at NDoA	January 16, 2019	Phone Call
NDoA Research Committee Meeting	January 18, 2019	Teleconference
NDoA Research Committee Meeting	January 25, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting on NDoA QI Project implementation	January 28, 2019	Teleconference
Phone Call with CMA to discuss Day of Action press release	January 30, 2019	Phone Call
CFMS National Day of Action on Seniors Care and Aging Weekend	February 2-4, 2019	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Board Meeting	February 10, 2019	Teleconference
Phone call to touch-base with Silvio, OMSA Director of Representation	February 17, 2019	Phone Call
Opioids Response Team Meeting with CCSA	February 20, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Parliamentary Reception on Neglected Tropical Diseases	February 20, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Phone Call meeting to discuss CFMS NDoA 2.0 advocacy meetings on uCMGs with MPs	February 20, 2019	Teleconference

Day of Action Debrief Meeting and Call	February 24, 2019	Teleconference
Phone Call meeting with Debbie, CFMS Ontario Regional Director and Gov't Affairs Dyad Partner	February 27, 2019	Phone Call
National GAAC Teleconference	March 10, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Board Monthly Teleconference	March 17, 2019	Teleconference
OMSA Lobby Day	April 6-8, 2019	Toronto, ON
National GAAC Teleconference	April 7, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS SGM 2019 and Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) 2019	April 11-14, 2019	Niagara Falls, ON
CMA Election Readiness Training Event	April 15-16, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Teleconference Meeting on National Licensure with multiple stakeholders (hosted by RDocs)	April 18, 2019	Teleconference
Transition and on-boarding phone call with Director GA-Elect	April 22, 2019	Phone Call
MCC Finance Committee Meeting	April 23, 2019	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Teleconference on Health Human Resources Advocacy	April 23, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Board Evaluation Phone Call with Past-President	April 24, 2019	Phone Call
CFMS Federal Election Strategy Planning Call	April 27, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	April 28, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Preparatory Meeting on Physician Workforce Planning Advocacy	April 28, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Political Advocacy Meetings on Physician Workforce Planning and the Unmatched Medical Graduate Issue	April 30, 2019	Ottawa, ON
National Geriatrics Interest Group (NGIG) Student Day Conference	May 4, 2019	Halifax, NS
CAMIMH Champions of Mental Health Awards & Gala, Invitation by CMA	May 6, 2019	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Reps Roundtable Teleconference Presentation on CFMS Federal Election Strategy and Opioids Work Request	May 11, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Board Teleconference	May 12, 2019	Teleconference
Canada 2020 Pharmacare Forum	May 14, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with CMA Political Action, and onboarding for CFMS Director GA-Elect	May 15, 2019	Phone Call
CCSA/Health Canada National Opioids Response Partners Meeting and CFMS Presentation	May 22, 2019	Ottawa, ON

CMA 3 rd Annual Reception on the Hill	May 27, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Open Government Partnership Summit 2019: Emerging Leaders Networking Event	May 30, 2019	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Summer Board Meeting	June 1-2, 2019	Halifax, NS
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	June 2, 2019	Teleconference
FMRAC (Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada) Annual Meeting and Conference	June 8-10, 2019	Whistler, BC
First-ever gathering of Canada's 12 female first ministers (event and reception)	June 19, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Race and Politics, event hosted by The Hill Times and CPAC	June 19, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Medical Council of Canada Finance Committee Teleconference	June 26, 2019	Teleconference
Medical Council of Canada Governance Review Interview	July 2, 2019	Phone Call
Phone call with CFMS National Officer Political Action	July 2, 2019	Phone Call
Phone call to discuss CMA Health Summit Grand Central Submission by CFMS	July 3, 2019	Phone Call
Meeting with Matthew Downer, CFMS Opioids Task Force Member	July 7, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Meeting to discuss collaboration between CFMS and WEF Global Shapers on Federal Election Strategy	July 12, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting to discuss CMA priorities with Dr. Sandy Buchman, CMA President-Elect	July 19, 2019	Toronto, ON
Phone call with CMA Political Action Team and FMEQ regarding medical student involvement in CMA federal election strategy work and events	July 19, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS meeting to discuss finance/reimbursement issues	July 19, 2019	Teleconference
CMA Political Action Video Filming session	July 26, 2019	Ottawa, ON
CMA Health Summit and CMA Annual General Meeting	August 11-13, 2019	Toronto, ON
Phone call with Aishwi (UBC medical student) to discuss CFMS collaboration on political advocacy campaign for increased climate change commitments led by the WHO	August 14, 2019	Phone Call
Meeting with Charles Yin, regarding CFMS Day of Action quality improvement project analysis	August 16, 2019	Phone Call
Meeting with Lucas King, discussing CFMS Board opportunities and experience	August 16, 2019	Phone Call
CFMS Board Meeting Teleconference	August 18, 2019	Teleconference

CFMS Strategic Planning Workshop with Dr. Anthea Lafreniere	August 21, 2019	Teleconference
CMA Election Engagement Meeting	August 27, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting with Charles Yin, to discuss CFMS Day of Action quality improvement work	Sept 2, 2019	Phone Call
CFMS Board Meeting Teleconference	Sept 15, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Annual General Meeting	Sept 19-22, 2019	St. John's, NL

IV. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

It has been one of my greatest experiences and honours thus far in my short medical education career to have the opportunity and privilege to learn from, work with, and advocate with so many other medical learners from across the country that are deeply passionate and engaged in their health advocacy work. It is incredibly inspiring and invigorating to learn from medical learner leaders with such strong guiding values and principles, with the collective vision and compass to enhance the health of Canadians and improve the system in which we live, play, and thrive in.

I would like to thank everyone that played any sort of role within the CFMS advocacy portfolio, whether it be through the capacity of being a National Officer, a task force lead, a task force member, or a committee member that assisted in any work that made the CFMS 2019 Day of Action a success, the collaborators that participated in our consultations process, external stakeholder partners that provide guidance to our work, and anyone else that contributed, was involved, or spent time in learning about our work. None of this would be possible without you.

Thank you for taking the time in reviewing and reading this report, and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions, or would like to be involved in any part of our advocacy work.

With sincere gratitude,



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Canadian Federation of Medical Students | Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

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