

EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Sarah Silverberg, CFMS VP Government Affairs
2017 Spring General Meeting
April 28-29, 2017, Winnipeg, Manitoba*



I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The Vice-President of Government Affairs (VP GA) has a variety of duties related to leading and coordinating local, provincial, and national advocacy efforts of the CFMS. More specifically, the VP GA serves as Chair of the CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) and leads the organization of the annual CFMS Lobby Day in Ottawa. In conjunction with the National Officer of Health Policy, the VP GA guides the Committee on Health Policy in a regular review of existing policy documents and the creation of new documents. The VP GA will also actively collaborate with the Vice President Education on issues related to education that require political involvement. Finally, the VP GA will represent the CFMS to various external committees and organizations as deemed necessary by the president and executive.

The CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) 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 GAAC is composed of the Chair (VP GA) and one to two representatives from each CFMS member school, selected by the individual medical societies. The mandate of the CFMS GAAC 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 CFMS national lobbying efforts.

II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended:

DATE	MEETING	LOCATION
Sept 22-25, 2016	CFMS Annual General Meeting	EDMONTON, AB
Oct 4, 2016	Advocacy Strategy Teleconference	TELECONFERENCE
Oct 4, 2016	CFMS GAAC Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Oct 8, 2016	Teleconference with CFMS President	TELECONFERENCE
Oct 15, 2016	CFMS Education and Advocacy Teleconference	TELECONFERENCE
Oct 15, 2016	CFMS Executive meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Oct 17, 2016	CMA Event with FPT	TORONTO, ON
Oct 19, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Meeting	TELECONFERENCE

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Oct 23, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Oct 30, 2016	CFMS GAAC Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 4-6, 2016	CFMS Fall Executive Meeting	OTTAWA, ON
Nov 5, 2016	CFMS GAAC Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 11-12, 2016	CFMS NOHP interviews	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 13, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 14, 2016	CMA Advocacy Training Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 17, 2016	Teleconference with NOHRP	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 20, 2016	Budget Meeting with CFMS VP Finance	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 24, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Expert Consultation	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 26, 2016	Teleconference with NOHP	TELECONFERENCE
Nov 27, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 1, 2016	CMA Lobby Day Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 3, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 4, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 4, 2016	GAAC call	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 13, 2016	CFMS HHR Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 13, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 16, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 17, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Dec 29, 2016	CFMS Website Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Jan 6-8, 2017	CFMS Winter Executive Meeting	TORONTO, ON
Jan 12, 2017	CMA Lobby Day Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Jan 15, 2017	CFMS GAAC Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Jan 24, 2017	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Jan 25, 2017	Teleconference with NOHP	TELECONFERENCE
Jan 31, 2017	CFMS Lobby Day Research	TELECONFERENCE

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	Committee Meeting	
Feb 6, 2017	Health Canada Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Feb 10-13, 2017	CFMS Lobby Day	OTTAWA, ON
Feb 25, 2017	CFMS Executive Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
Mar 12, 2017	CFMS GAAC Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
March 17	Health Canada Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
March 21	Teleconference with Opioid Project Supervisor	TELECONFERENCE
April 1-3	OMSA Lobby Day	TORONTO, ON
April 9	CFMS GAAC Meeting	TELECONFERENCE
April 20	Public Policy Forum Gala	TORONTO, ON
April 28-30	CFMS Spring General Meeting	WINNIPEG, MB
April 30	AFMC eHealth Committee Meeting	WINNIPEG, MB

III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

CFMS Lobby Day: The Opioid Crisis

On February 13th, 2017, the CFMS held one of its annual flagship events – Lobby Day. Over 60 medical students from across Canada met with Members of Parliament and Senators in Ottawa to discuss action on the opioid crisis, focusing on upstream factors such as chronic pain and access to mental health services. This year we had the privilege of meeting with the Minister of Health to discuss our ask and the role of learners in addressing the problem. We have also formed a partnership with Health Canada to continue work on this project and have included commitments for the updated Joint Statements. Our efforts were featured on CBC in Calgary, and further efforts by our UBC team to lobby their provincial government garnered significant local coverage in British Columbia. We are glad to see Canada's policy makers are taking this issue seriously and hopefully meaningful changes are forthcoming.

This year one of my focuses has been on continuing to advocate beyond Lobby Day itself. Our work with Health Canada has spring-boarded these efforts. Through our participation in upcoming National Opioid Summit follow-up activities, we are working with other national organizations to develop long-term projects on the topic, specifically around training and education in the medical education setting and the evaluation of the crisis as a complex system. Summer studentships were developed to address these topics. Student grass-root and peer-to-peer education initiatives have also played an important role in this continuing advocacy.

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Local Initiatives

While CFMS Lobby Day is an event with significant reach and political impact for our federation as a whole, the grassroots advocacy events organized by our local reps allow for tremendous impact at the level of our individual members. Highlights of local events this year include provincial lobby days in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Quebec. Other successes include the development of the Lightbulb Moments Campaign and launch event in Hamilton, ON on April 11, the organization of naloxone training at medical schools across the country, debates on public vs private healthcare, municipal lobby days, poverty pledges, a maternal health summit, and town halls with a provincial health minister.

Health Human Resources

The CFMS has been working hard to address the current climate of health human resource (HHR) planning in Canada this year. Our efforts have been two-fold; evaluating and sun-setting the old and outdated positions held by the CFMS and revisiting these ideas in 2017, as well as developing a long-term vision for HHR planning in Canada. We have been working closely with the Education portfolio to advocate for a system that provides students with sufficient information to make career decisions and work with external stakeholders to adequately develop models that inform HHR planning in the country for the future.

Position Paper Process

The Committee on Health Policy (COHP) has been working this past year to revise the position paper submission process. With increasing engagement from members the number of papers up for discussion has skyrocketed, and it has become difficult to discuss papers and positions in sufficient depth at meetings. Over the last year we have evaluated systems used by other organizations, and, in light of previous CFMS generations in which primarily motions were discussed rather than papers, the COHP has been developing an alternate system for publication of position papers. They are currently finalizing a system that balances input and critique from diverse members with efficient publication of papers. Stay tuned for AGM 2017 for final updates.

Advocacy Tracker

The COHP has been working tirelessly all year to develop the advocacy tracker to be ready for SGM. They have been developing a method for applying metrics to our position papers so we can track our advocacy efforts well in to the future. Stay tuned for further discussion on this important matter during SGM 2016. They have pulled out every key points and recommendation from every position paper passed by the CFMS, and have developed updates as to what has been done to date on the file. We plan to publish it on the CFMS website and maintain updates on it with the passage of new papers over the coming year.

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Liaising with the FMEQ

We continue to strengthen our relationship with the FMEQ working on cross-Canada advocacy projects. Not only do we invite one-another to federal and Quebec Lobby Days, but we have also worked on advocacy surrounding tobacco legislation, including the development of a formal submission to Health Canada in consultation. We hope to continue supporting them, particularly on this topic, in the province of Quebec.

IV. FOLLOW UP, VISION, GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS POSITION

As the summer approaches, local advocacy initiatives will begin to quiet down which will leave more time for in-depth reflection on events of the past year as well as for future planning. In regards to CFMS Lobby Day, the coming months will involve continued follow-up with Health Canada and follow-through on the initiatives that we have started. The re-formation of the Lobby Day Research Committee will start work after SGM to begin determining the topic for Lobby Day for next year. I will continue to work with the NOHP and our website development team to publish the Advocacy Tracker and continue working with the Education portfolio on the Health Human Resource file. With the NOHP and the COHP I hope to have a revised position paper process for the Fall to increase our organization's policy output.

Sarah Silverberg, B.Arts.Sc.

MD Candidate 2018 | University of Toronto

Vice President Government Affairs |Vice-Présidente aux affaires gouvernementales

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

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