RESOLUTION: To Support the "Improving Service Learning Curricula in Canadian Medical Education" Position Paper

Motion:
WHEREAS
Service learning - intentional community work through which students simultaneously provide a service and gain meaningful learning experiences - allows students to develop skills to make impactful civic contributions (Rhodes & Davis, 2001) and to dismantle the perceived separation of work and civic contributions (Speck, 2001).

WHEREAS
Service learning has several benefits to students - including improving students' higher order thinking, empathy, cultural awareness, interpersonal development, and motivation to engage in social issues (Warren, 2012).

WHEREAS
Medical schools across North America have incorporated service learning into their curricula in a heterogeneous manner leading to varying levels of skills, knowledge and experience in Canadian physicians, where some physicians may not be equipped to make effective civic contributions as they begin their careers.

WHEREAS
A standardized approach with common principles and minimum guidelines are necessary to avoid harm and maximize benefit to all stakeholders.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CFMS
Adopt the position paper "Improving Service Learning Curricula in Canadian Medical Education".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT
The CFMS supports the use of a framework that focuses on maximizing benefit to the community and the student, which includes aspects of mentorship, formal learning objectives, structured reflection, evaluations, interprofessional collaboration, sustainability, and pre-placement training to guide Canadian service learning curricula.

Financial Cost: $ 0

Level of Effort: Initial implementation of the resolution will require minimal effort and time from the CFMS.

Time Invested: 500 hours

Moved by: Kaylynn Purdy

Seconded by: Maylynn Ding

References:

Rhodes, N., & Davis, J. (2001). Using Service Learning To Get Positive Reactions in the Library. Computers in Libraries, 21.1, 32-35.

Speck, Bruce W. (2001). Why Service-Learning?. New directions for higher education, 2001(14), 3-13.

Warren, JL (2012). Does Service-Learning Increase Student Learning?: A Meta-Analysis. Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, 18(2), 56-61.