Clara Long, Atlantic Regional Director 2020 Spring General Meeting Virtual April 16-18th 2020



I. Description and Introduction

The Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is the representative voice of Canadian medical students to the national medical organizations, to the federal government, to the public, and to other external bodies. The CFMS represents over 8000 medical students at 15 Canadian medical schools from coast to coast. It is the mission of CFMS to represent, support, and connect its members. CFMS aims to communicate within its membership, as well as from its membership, to the world at large. As an ever-expanding organization, CFMS continually strives to meet the consistent and changing needs of Canadian medical students.

Brief Description

The CFMS Atlantic Regional Director is responsible for representing all CFMS member schools in the Atlantic provinces to the CFMS Board. The schools are:

- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Dalhousie University
- Centre de Formation Médicale du Nouveau-Brunswick

The Atlantic Regional Director will chair or attend external meetings, committees, task forces and working groups as required by their regional duties and by their attaché dyad position. They will collaborate with medical societies in the planning of Atlantic events. Finally, the Atlantic Regional Director carries out strategic duties in maintaining their fiduciary responsibilities to the CFMS.

II. Selected Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting	Location
Sept 19-22, 2019	AGM	St John's
Sept 28, 2019	Intro to CFMS board and dyad pairing	Phone call
Sept 30, 2019	Dyad on board meeting	Phone call
Oct 1, 2019	Communications dyad handover	Phone call
Oct 12, 2019	RRT	Teleconference
Oct 16, 2019	Atlantic TC #1	Teleconference
Oct 18, 2019	RAC5 meeting and town hall	St John's
Oct 18, 2019	MUN visit	St John's
Oct 20, 2019	Pulse check in with Victor	Phone call
Oct 20, 2019	October board teleconference	Teleconference
Oct 25-27, 2019	FBM	Ottawa

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Nov 9, 2019	RRT	Teleconference
Nov 11, 2019	CFMS app group meeting	Teleconference
Nov 21, 2019	Atlantic GAAC meeting	Teleconference
Nov 23, 2019	SIF TF meeting	Teleconference
Nov 24, 2019	November board teleconference	Teleconference
Dec 1, 2019	Sherbrooke Moncton visit	Moncton
Dec 14, 2019	RRT	Teleconference
Dec 15, 2019	Pulse check in with Victor	Phone call
Dec 15, 2019	December board teleconference	Teleconference
Dec 20, 2019	CMA call on advocacy training	Teleconference
Jan 4-5, 2020	WBM	Toronto
Jan 7, 2020	SIF TF meeting	Teleconference
Jan 10, 2020	FMWC meeting	Teleconference
Jan 13, 2020	Atlantic TC #2	Teleconference
Jan 24, 2020	DMNS visit: CFMS leadership panel	Halifax
Jan 25, 2020	RRT	Teleconference
Jan 26, 2020	CFMS app group meeting	Teleconference
Feb 13, 2020	NSHA talk on physician retention	Halifax
Feb 16, 2020	February board teleconference	Teleconference
Feb 17, 2020	Atlantic TF meeting	Teleconference
Feb 20, 2020	DMNB visit: CFMS leadership panel	Teleconference
Feb 28, 2020	Dyad meeting	Phone call
Feb 29, 2020	Communications portfolio strategic planning	Phone call
Mar 8, 2020	RRT	Teleconference
Mar 10, 2020	CoAMS planning meeting	Halifax
Mar 15, 2020	March board teleconference	Teleconference

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Mar 15, 2020	Board mid-term review	Phone call
Mar 19, 2020	Atlantic GAAC meeting	Teleconference
Mar 28, 2020	RRT check in	Teleconference
Mar 30, 2020	Atlantic TF meeting	Teleconference
Apr 2, 2020	SIF TF meeting	Teleconference
Apr 4, 2020	Check in/dyad check in	Teleconference
Apr 4, 2020	COVID initiative grant meeting	Teleconference
Apr 5, 2020	April board teleconference	Teleconference

III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

- a. **Atlantic Task Force**: This year, based on discussions with the CFMS reps and MedSoc presidents at the Atlantic schools, we've decided to start a new Atlantic Task Force project to continue the spirit of collaboration between the schools on a topic that is important to all students of the region. We are producing a toolkit to be used by the health authorities to explore physician retention from a medical student perspective.
- b. **Regional Advocacy**: I have worked with the Atlantic GAACs to see how we can establish a regional perspective in our advocacy efforts. Our conversation has centred around coordinated advocacy training, communication campaigns, and sharing resources.

c. Regional Engagement:

- a. Strategies for encouraging student engagement and CFMS visibility: I had planned to visit all 4 campuses in the Atlantic region. In 2019, I had visited Moncton and St. John's. I gave a CFMS presentation and sat on a leadership panel in both Saint John and in Halifax along with MarDocs and the DMSS. I have also made a Google Drive for resource sharing, such as the use of Google Sheets for a database for IGs at the Atlantic schools.
- b. CoAMS: I worked with the CoAMS team and the Royal College to establish a relationship between the Royal College and students in the Atlantic region. I had planned a small group session during CoAMS.
- d. **Communications**: As the communications attaché, I chair the Reps Roundtable. I am also responsible for organizing the travel awards and chairing the nominations committee. I am involved with facilitating the sponsored MD Financial social media posts. Over the past few months, we have showcased student initiatives across the country as part of Showcase Thursdays.

IV. FUTURE PLANS AND ACTION ITEMS

<u>COVID-19 Implications:</u> Undoubtably, the past few weeks have been difficult across the country. Locally, many projects had to be put on hold, including provincial Days of Action and CoAMS. While it is unfortunate that we are not able to see through the results of our

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planning, the work we have done will act as an important foundation for any future regional endeavours. As chair of the RRT, I have been amazed by how medical students have come together in a time of uncertainty to support one another and the community. The RRT has been involved with member communication and coordinating and supporting local volunteer initiatives at this time.

<u>Future Plans:</u> I will continue to work with the Atlantic schools to ensure that our voice is heard and that Atlantic students feel supported by the CFMS. The Atlantic TF project is ongoing, and we are collaborating with local health authorities to learn about current physician retention strategies. Through the RRT, I hope to work with students as we adjust to new realities. I'm also looking forward to coordinating the release of the spring call for nominations.

V. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

While 2020 has certainly brought some challenges, I am inspired by the resilience and hard work of Canadian medical students as well as the students and staff involved with the CFMS. The last few months have been difficult, and plans have had to be changed, but we continue to move forward on many fronts in order to support students across the country. Being part of the Communications Dyad has been an amazing opportunity to enhance my understanding of CFMS activities, and I love the opportunity to be involved at both regional and national levels as a regional director. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings.

Sincerely,

Clara Long

Atlantic Regional Director | Directrice Régionale de l'Est

Canadian Federation of Medical Students

Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

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