

CFMS Government Affairs Portfolio Strategic Plan

Vision: The vision of the CFMS Government Affairs Portfolio is to provide medical students ample opportunity to engage in political advocacy, as well as provide resources for medical students to learn how to become effective advocates beyond medical school.

Medical students have proven to be passionate about advocacy, and the Government Affairs Portfolio is in the unique opportunity to provide advocacy opportunities for students, especially as they intersect with government bodies. We aim to improve the relevance of our advocacy efforts to both medical students and our future patient populations, and the advocacy opportunities we provide to students so that they can be as applicable to their futures as physicians as possible.

To ensure that the advocacy opportunities that we provide for medical students are optimal, we will work towards improving resources for students to access health advocacy education, continue to engage with relevant advocacy organizations to guarantee that our advocacy is appropriate and within our scope, effectively communicate our opportunities to students, and ensure that there is appropriate follow-up to our advocacy work.

Strategic Direction #1: Relevant Advocacy

Description/Background: Ensure our advocacy is multifaceted, targeted, effective, and inclusive of the pressing needs of society and of the medical student community. We aim to continually revise our advocacy goals and scope to ensure that it is appropriate, and that our effectiveness is maximized,

Goals/Objectives:

1. Topics for advocacy are chosen with a focus of relevance, actionability, and importance to our patients.
2. In addition to patient advocacy, we continue to represent the needs of medical students to policymakers.

Evaluations, Measurables, Deliverables:

1. Direct the National Day of Action (NDoA) selection committee to consider political, social, and logistical factors when presenting topics to the general assembly for consideration.
2. Ensure the work of the NDoA research committee is focused on “SMART asks”, which is that the asks are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.
3. Continue with second National Day of Action focused on a topic that advocates *for* medical students. Ex. More residency spots for unmatched medical graduates.
4. Expand the second NDoA to provincial legislatures as necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the advocacy.

5. Regularly review task forces under the portfolio to assess relevancy in the current social and political climate, to remove ineffective task forces and create new ones to address any gaps.

Strategic Direction #2: Health Advocacy Education

Description/Background: Provide ample opportunity for medical students to learn to advocate while in medical school, to allow them to develop skills that will inform future advocacy efforts. Health advocacy education is variable from medical school to medical school, and providing opportunities to learn about health advocacy outside of curricula can help to fill gaps.

Goals/Objectives:

1. Increase opportunities for health advocacy education to prepare future physicians to become effective advocates.
2. Use NDoA as an opportunity to educate future health leaders in conjunction with other stakeholders.
3. Determine the type of advocacy education that students deem to be the most useful and provide relevant resources through the National Annual Survey.

Evaluations, Measurables, Deliverables:

1. Develop a national longitudinal advocacy elective for student advocacy leaders to implement within their own individual institutions, that can be tailored to fill the health advocacy education gaps at their institution.
2. Collect feedback for the first three years the advocacy toolkit is implemented for initial adjustments.
3. Ask and collect feedback on medical student opinion on how the CFMS can best prepare medical students to become advocates through the National Annual Survey
4. Engage Resident Doctors of Canada and the Canadian Medical Association in advocacy training for NDoA delegates.

Strategic Direction #3: Engagement of Stakeholders

Description/Background: Developing and maintaining relationships with advocacy partners within and outside of the CFMS to ensure the appropriateness and relevancy of our advocacy.

Goals/Objectives:

1. Establish relationships and maintain communication with stakeholders.
2. Create and maintain living document of current stakeholders and GA members sitting on external committees.

Evaluations, Measurables, Deliverables:

1. Create a google document with stakeholder contact, and primarily use to connect with stakeholders relevant to task forces and active advocacy topics.

2. Ensure that stakeholders are actively engaged in our advocacy projects to help inform our advocacy asks.

Strategic Direction #4: Effective Communication

Description/Background: Improving and increasing the visibility of the CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy portfolio, to improve student engagement with the portfolio, and maximize opportunities for students to become involved in political advocacy.

Goals/Objectives:

1. Ensure students are aware of advocacy resources
2. Continue to develop rapid responses to emerging political issues and engagement with the media so that our voice is always present in discussions on health care in Canada
3. Keep students aware and up-to-date with relevant health news

Evaluations, Measurables, Deliverables:

1. Develop advocacy portal to allow students access to previous Day of Action documents, as well as other projects
2. Produce a quarterly newsletter on significant provincial and federal health news by a collaboration between the rapid response team and the GAAC representative roundtable.

Strategic Direction #5: Advocacy Follow-through

Description/Background: Ensure our advocacy continues a rolling basis, not confined only to our National Day of Action, but following up throughout the year and continuing to work with stakeholders to advance our interests.

Goals/Objectives:

1. Advocacy asks are thoroughly followed up on at the local, provincial and national level
2. Ensure that advocacy on a particular topic does not end after the “ask” is presented.

Evaluations, Measurables, Deliverables:

1. Dynamic national campaigns before and after the National Day of Action to engage students.
2. Dedicated time to discuss follow up on GAAC conference call after the NDoA.
3. Opportunity for students to meet during the NDoA weekend within school groups, and in a whole group meeting, to decide on a follow up plan with dedicated timeline.
4. Encourage a national letter writing campaigns for the NDoA, in addition to other coordinated and national follow up tasks, to encourage a unified follow-up strategy.

Item	AGM 2020	AGM 2021	AGM 2022
Relevant Advocacy			
Ensure NDoA selection committee considers political, social, and logistical factors for topics	x	x	x
Ensure NDoA asks are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound	x	x	x
Advocate for students with the second NDoA		x	x
Include provincial legislatures in the second NDoA advocacy		x	x
Review task forces under the portfolio to assess relevancy annually	x	x	x
Health Advocacy Education			
Develop a national longitudinal advocacy elective (LAE)	x		
Collect feedback for the first three years for LAE		x	x
Collect information on medical student opinion on how the CFMS can best prepare medical students to become advocates	x	x	x
Use resources from associated organizations to provide advocacy training for students	x	x	x
Engagement of Stakeholders			
Develop and maintain ongoing relationships with stakeholders, that is documented and updated bi-monthly		x	x
Ensure that stakeholders are actively engaged in advocacy areas to help inform our advocacy asks	x	x	x
Effective Communication			
Create an advocacy portal on the CFMS website to allow students access to previous Day of Action documents	x	x	x
Produce a quarterly newsletter on significant provincial and federal health news by a collaboration between the rapid response team and the GAAC representative roundtable.	x	x	x
Advocacy Follow-through			
Develop dynamic national campaigns before and after the NDoA to engage the general membership.	x	x	x
Dedicate time to a post-NDoA follow up call with select NDoA delegates	x	x	x
Allow delegates at NDoA to meet with members of their institution, and as a whole delegation to determine a comprehensive local and national follow up strategy	x	x	x