

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Montana Hackett  
Director of Government Affairs  
Sept 2022 – Annual General Meeting  
Vancouver, British Columbia*



## 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), ensures the effective implementation of the Longitudinal Advocacy Training Series (LATS), the development of the Political Advocacy Training (PAT) program, 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 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. ACTIVITIES

### **Portfolio Restructuring**

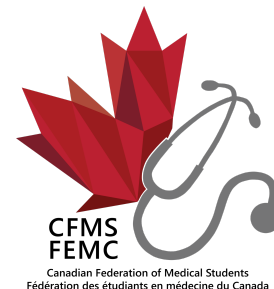
As part of my consultation process prior to being elected and afterwards, a series of changes were implemented to make the portfolio more accessible, welcoming, and safe for students.

#### **1) Health Policy**

The Committee on Health Policy along with the systems in place for guiding documents have been completely reworked to ensure effectiveness of the team, guiding document review, and advocacy is performed as per the member's wishes. The updated ToR with these details will be going through the Governance Committee for review. The COHP was also responsible for making the guiding documents more accessible through a variety of means including audio-read throughs, one-page summaries, multiple paper consolidation, and more!

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## **2) Rapid Response Team**

The team, in addition to their work on responding to news, assisted the COHP with making papers accessible. The team will be trialed in the coming year as an “all CFMS” effort where all portfolios can utilize them to respond to news as needed rather than being limited to GovtAffairs related content.

## **3) National Day of Action**

The NDoA was reassigned to the Fall to provide the research team with more time to develop the evidence based recommendations required. The timeline for Topic Selection (Spring Call to AGM) was unchanged however with the Fall date the Research Team then had a full calendar year to research providing flexibility for them to work in a wellness focused manner but also to take on the additional work that the expanded role stimulated. The scope of the advocacy was increased to include provincial level advocacy as well as EDI related content. This EDI-lens includes researching the topic in the context of different identities including Black, Indigenous, Queer/2SLGBTQ+, persons with disabilities, and more!

## **4) Follow-Up Advocacy**

To address a past issue with our advocacy (ie no follow-up) the FNDoA was created. This event is a DoA style event (with the same expanded scope of the NDoA) designed to systematically follow-up on advocacy in the context of a previous NDoA topic, this year’s being Access to Contraception. This FNDoA is slated to occur in May. A number of changes to the NDoA formula are also being trialed at this event with a hybrid format (in-person and virtual) taking center stage.

## **5) Health and Human Resources Task Force**

The HHRTF was given freedom to continue their work as they transition from platform creation to maintenance and improvement. They have been moved to the Finance portfolio.

## **6) Longitudinal Advocacy Training Series**

The LATS team, off of a humongously successful launch year, was given the freedom to expand and refine their program offerings.

## **7) Political Advocacy Training (PAT)**

A brand new team to fill the vacuum created by the CMA discontinuing their Advocacy Coaching/Training program. The PAT team began with the creation of their core training offering in order to ensure students still had access to quality advocacy training for their needs. Since then they have been refining the work and expanding to include smaller training on related topics. This work has tremendous upside and will continue to be a huge priority for the portfolio in concert with the work of the LATS team as the sister advocacy skill building program.

## **Day of Action Topic Selection Committee**

We incorporated a considerable series of changes to the Day of Action Topic selection process guided by the principles of transparency and democracy. It was composed of 4 passionate medical students, Amna (our amazing NOPA), Gunisha, Christopher, and Grace that were tasked with short listing and drafting a proposal summary document of topics for the Day of Action. The membership was surveyed on what topic they wanted to see considered. The team then spent 3 months preparing their individual topics for

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consideration and voting by membership. A large-scale awareness campaign was launched in September encouraging students to vote in the process. The voting approach was also re-invented with each school's student body getting an overall vote, delegations to AGM getting a vote, and Topic Selection members getting a vote. Ultimately, the votes were compiled by myself and put into a ranked voting matrix to determine the individual school winning vote which were then added to the other votes, again in a ranked voting format, to determine the ultimate winner: Decriminalization of Opioids.

## **Day of Action Research Committee**

The 2022 Day of Action Research Committee was composed of 7 medical students—Amna, Gunisha, Grace, Christopher, Sanya, Jamila, and Sonu—that are researching, consulting, summarizing, developing Asks and writing the essential documents to support the topic chosen for the Day of Action. Day of Action Research Committee members are also responsible for training Day of Action delegates in Ottawa in preparation for meetings with federal MPs, senators, and policymakers. As a committee they are developing a Day of Action backgrounder report summarizing traditional and gray literature research on the Day of Action topic, summary report meant as a hand-out for meetings that summarizes the key points, a community consultations review and summary report that outlined our approach to the community consultation process, analysis, and summarized the key findings from the meetings, and a medical student engagement strategy for the Day of Action.

## **Follow-Up National Day of Action Team**

The team of 5 medical students—Ayushi (our Advocacy Follow-Up Lead), Sidra, Ramy, Ethan, and Ali—have been working diligently to expand the background research to include the provincial contexts as well as the EDI priorities mentioned earlier. Overall, the FNDoA was a tremendous success! A final report for the advocacy will be available to membership soon..

## **III. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>
April. 21st, 2021	CFMS SGM	Teleconference
April. 22nd, 2021	CFMS SGM	Teleconference
April. 23rd, 2021	CFMS SGM	Teleconference
April. 24th, 2021	CFMS SGM	Teleconference
April. 25th, 2021	HESA Committee Meeting	Teleconference

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May 1st, 2022	Mini-CFMS Board Meeting to Discuss CMA Funding	Teleconference
May 2nd, 2022	MDFM - FNDoA Prep Meeting	Teleconference
May 2nd, 2022	FNDoA: Political Advocacy Training (PAT) Session	Teleconference
May 7th, 2022	FNDoA: Training Day 1	Ottawa
May 8th, 2022	FNDoA: Training Day 2	Ottawa
May 9th, 2022	FNDoA: Day of Action	Ottawa
June 8th, 2022	Summer Board Meeting	Montreal
June 9th, 2022	Summer Board Meeting	Montreal
June 10th, 2022	Summer Board Meeting	Montreal
June 11th, 2022	Summer Board Meeting	Montreal
June 12th, 2022	Summer Board Meeting	Montreal
June 16th, 2022	NewMode Meeting	Teleconference
July 2nd, 2022	COHP ToR Update Meeting	Teleconference
July 4th, 2022	COHP ToR Update Meeting	Teleconference
July 7th, 2022	Amna Transition Meeting	Teleconference
July 20th, 2022	Amna Transition Meeting	Teleconference

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July 28th, 2022	Decriminalization Position Paper Discussion	Teleconference
August 7th, 2022	CFMS Special General Meeting	Teleconference
September 6th, 2022	Amna Transition Meeting	Teleconference
September 11th, 2022	NDoA Planning Meeting	Teleconference
September 11th, 2022	CFMS Collaborative Summit	Teleconference
September 15th, 2022	CFMS Annual General Meeting	Teleconference
September 16th, 2022	CFMS Annual General Meeting	Teleconference
September 17th, 2022	CFMS Annual General Meeting	Teleconference
September 18th, 2022	CFMS Board Transition Meeting	Teleconference

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The Director of Government Affairs position has been an immense privilege. I want to thank the amazing team within the portfolio I had around me for making it such a positive experience: Amna, David-Dan, Ayushi, Sabreena, Rania, Micheal, Courtney, Jess, Liz, Shaelynn, and Or! All of these leaders are some of the best I have ever worked with and deserve a tremendous amount of respect. They will be successful in whatever they choose to do. I want to thank the GovtAffairs RT for working through what has been a challenging year of changes. I hope you look back on your time fondly, I know I will.

Thank you to Danielle for supporting the communications and transparency work of the portfolio in what is a thankless role. Your work ethic is inspirational and your competency is unmatched. Thank you to Victoria T. for her collaboration and support both as a phenomenal ORD and Director of Education. Thank you to Dr. Steph Smith for upholding the ethics, values, and principles of what the CFMS needs to be when so many forget the impact of over 40 years of student leaders is the bedrock of our organization.

I am confident I left the portfolio stronger, more equitable, more accessible, and more inclusive than I left it. I look forward to transitioning the new Director to carry on the work of those who came before me as well as forge their own contribution to its history. Advocacy is for everyone.

**Montana Hackett**

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