

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Jessica Harris, Vice-President of Government Affairs
CFMS Spring General Meeting – Montréal, QC
April 14 – 16, 2016



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

Date	Meeting	Location
September 17-20, 2015	CFMS Annual General Meeting	Windsor, ON
September 20, 2015	Transition Meeting with outgoing VP GA Melanie Bechard	Windsor, ON
October 4, 2015	CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee (GAAC) Meeting	Teleconference
October 5, 2015	1:1 Meeting with CFMS President	Teleconference
October 7, 2015	Clinical Investigator Trainee Association of Canada (CITAC) Meeting	Teleconference
October 9, 2015	AFMC-Infoway eHealth Advocacy Program – Engaging with Learners	Teleconference
October 16-18, 2015	CFMS Fall Executive Meeting	Ottawa, ON
October 22, 2015	AFMC-Infoway eHealth Faculty Development Workshop Series - Personal & Shared Information Management	Teleconference
November 1, 2015	Clinical Investigator Trainee Association of Canada (CITAC) Meeting	Teleconference

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Jessica Harris, Vice-President of Government Affairs
 CFMS Spring General Meeting – Montréal, QC
 April 14 – 16, 2016



CFMS FEMC
 Canadian Federation of Medical Students / Fédération des étudiants en médecine du Canada
 Global Health Program | Programme de santé mondiale

Date	Meeting	Location
November 1, 2015	CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee (GAAC) Meeting	Teleconference
November 10, 2015	Meeting with MP Ralph Goodale's office regarding logistics for CFMS Lobby Day	Teleconference
November 10, 2015	1:1 Meeting with CFMS President regarding CFMS Lobby Day	Teleconference
November 15, 2015	CFMS Lobby Day Planning Meeting	Teleconference
November 16, 2015	1:1 Meeting with CFMS National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP)	Teleconference
November 19, 2015	Physician Resource Planning Task Force Summit	Ottawa, ON
November 22, 2015	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	Teleconference
November 22, 2015	CFMS Fall Executive T/C	Teleconference
November 23, 2015	AFMC-Infoway eHealth Faculty Development Workshop Series – Clinical Decision Management	Teleconference
November 24, 2015	CFMS Committee On Health Policy (COHP) Meeting	Teleconference
November 29, 2015	CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee (GAAC) Meeting	Teleconference
December 1, 2015	FMEC PG Transitions Career Planning and Residency Matching Process Working Group	Teleconference
December 2, 2015	Clinical Investigator Trainee Association of Canada (CITAC) Meeting	Teleconference
December 8, 2015	1:1 Meeting with CFMS VP Finance	Teleconference
December 10, 2015	1:1 Meeting with CFMS National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP)	Teleconference
December 15, 2015	AFMC-Infoway eHealth Faculty Development Workshop Series – Health Communication Management	Teleconference
January 8-10, 2016	CFMS Winter Executive Meeting	Toronto, ON
January 11, 2016	CFMS Social Media and Media Engagement Committee	Teleconference
January 17, 2016	CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee (GAAC) Meeting	Teleconference
January 18, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Research Committee Meeting	Teleconference
January 28, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Logistics Meeting with CFMS Lobby Day Coordinator and CMA	Teleconference
February 3, 2016	1:1 Meeting with Dr. Van Deven from Western regarding Service Learning Credits in UME	Teleconference
February 19, 2016	Final CFMS Lobby Day Preparations with CFMS Lobby Day Coordinator	Ottawa, ON
February 20-22, 2016	CFMS Lobby Day Weekend	Ottawa, ON

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Jessica Harris, Vice-President of Government Affairs
 CFMS Spring General Meeting – Montréal, QC
 April 14 – 16, 2016



Date	Meeting	Location
February 20, 2016	CMA Media Training with CFMS Executive	Ottawa, ON
February 20, 2016	CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee (GAAC) Meeting	Ottawa, ON
March 6, 2016	CFMS Winter Executive T/C	Teleconference
March 7, 2016	Feedback on Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) Draft Framework on Blood Borne Pathogens	eSurvey
March 18, 2016	1:1 Meeting with OMSA Director of Representation regarding OMSA Lobby Day	Teleconference
March 22, 2016	Interprofessional Medical Education Alliance Meeting regarding Lobby Day	Teleconference
March 26, 2016	1:1 Meeting with CFMS National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP)	Teleconference
March 28, 2016	AFMC Informatics Group – eHealth Subgroup Meeting	Teleconference
April 10, 2016	CFMS Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee (GAAC) Meeting	Teleconference
April 11-12, 2016	FMEQ Journée d’Action Politique	Québec City, QC
April 14-16, 2016	CFMS Spring General Meeting	Montréal, QC
April 14, 2016	CFMS-FMEQ Executive Meeting	Montréal, QC
April 15, 2016	MD Financial Leadership Awards Cocktail	Montréal, QC
April 16, 2016	AFMC Informatics Group – eHealth Subgroup Meeting	Montréal, QC
April 17, 2016	CFMS Executive Meeting with Medical Council of Canada (MCC)	Montréal, QC

III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

CFMS Lobby Day

On February 22nd, the CFMS held one of its annual flagship events – CFMS Lobby Day. Over 65 medical students from across Canada met with Members of Parliament in Ottawa to discuss strategies for cost-effective and equitable access to necessary medications. Canada is the only developed nation in the world with universal health care but no corresponding universal pharmaceutical coverage. This is an important issue for the CFMS and over the past few years we have shared our support for a comprehensive pharmacare strategy that would help address our economic inefficiencies and health inequities. This year our ASK focused on the creation of a national formulary, as a first step towards a national pharmacare program. We received positive feedback on the Hill and our documents even made their way to the desk of Canada’s Health Minister! Furthermore, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health dedicated their committee meeting on April 13, 2016 to the ‘Development of a National Pharmacare Program’. We’re glad to see Canada’s policy makers are taking this issue seriously and hopefully meaningful changes are forthcoming.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Jessica Harris, Vice-President of Government Affairs
CFMS Spring General Meeting – Montréal, QC
April 14 – 16, 2016



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. One of my goals at the outset of my term as VP Government Affairs was to foster local advocacy efforts and I'm happy to report that to this end, our GAAC has been very successful!

Highlights of local advocacy events that have taken place over the past year include Memorial's efforts to introduce a concussion education program in school curricula, advocacy aimed at encouraging general practitioners to take on refugee families at Dalhousie's Nova Scotia campus, a town hall focused on addressing youth homelessness at Dalhousie's New Brunswick campus, an interprofessional health student summit at McGill, a national pharmacare letter writing campaign at uOttawa, a Health and Human Rights Conference at Queens, faculty collaboration on advocacy in the curriculum at U of T, a Health Advocacy Symposium at McMaster, a discussion on the Ontario-OMA negotiations at Western, advocacy around harm reduction and managed alcohol programs at NOSM, a first-ever Advocacy Weekend in Manitoba, a panel discussion on physician assisted dying in Saskatchewan, a viewing session of the Federal Leaders' Debate at U of A, planning for an advocacy week at U of C, a pharmacare speakers series with Dr. Steve Morgan at UBC, as well as CMA Advocacy and Media training at nearly every member school and student-run Provincial Lobby Days in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia!

Advocacy Tracker

As we come together for SGM, there are over 20 position papers up for debate and approval by the general assembly (GA). And while there is active involvement around writing, presenting, and passing the papers by GA, the question of what comes after a position paper has been passed is one that continues to surface amongst our members. In 2013, the Government Affairs portfolio expanded to include the Committee on Health Policy (COHP). The overall aim of the COHP is to keep position papers current while also helping to propose future directions for new ones. Under the leadership of our National Officer of Health Policy (NOHP), Tamara Ibrahim, the Committee on Health Policy has 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.

CFMS Election Toolbox

The 'CFMS Election Toolkit' was a collaborative effort with the intent of helping medical students navigate the election process. The toolkit included a how-to voting guide tailored to medical students, a template letter on pharmacare to use in reaching out to candidates, and a summary of health care highlights from each political party's platform. Finally, we encouraged medical students to connect on social media using the hashtags #elxn42 and #medvote. It was a great way to get out the *med* vote!

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Jessica Harris, Vice-President of Government Affairs
CFMS Spring General Meeting – Montréal, QC
April 14 – 16, 2016



Sample of documents and articles produced thus far:

- CFMS Election Toolkit: <http://www.cfms.org/index.php/media-and-advocacy-4/election-toolkit-parent.html>
- The Medical Post article
 - CFMS says now that U.S. meets international standards, Canada should reduce deferral on gay blood donation to 1 year:
<http://www.canadianhealthcarenetwork.ca/physicians/news/students/cfms-says-now-that-u-s-meets-international-standards-canada-should-reduce-deferral-on-gay-blood-donation-to-1-year-42785>
- CFMS Lobby Day
 - Delegate Backgrounder – Pharmacare in Canada: *An Advocacy Initiative by Canadian Medical Students to Improve Access to Medicines*
 - MP Handout – Pharmacare in Canada: *Improving Access to Medicines for all Canadians*
- CFMS Annual Review
 - Catching up with the GAAC: *Highlights from the Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee*

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 MPs regarding pharmacare as well as the formation of a new CFMS Lobby Day Taskforce that will be charged with reviewing the current format and suggesting new ideas. Lobby Day is a signature event for the CFMS and it deserves due time and attention to make it the best it can be. I also plan to work closely with the NOHP as the Advocacy Tracker becomes a reality. Additionally, I would like to work at making the Advocacy section of our website more comprehensive and user friendly so to highlight the valuable advocacy tools available to our members. I will continue to encourage advocacy learning within medical school curricula as well as support and encourage our membership to partake in the CMA Advocacy and Media training sessions. And of course I will keep my finger on the pulse of the political environment, specifically looking out for the imminent federal legislation regarding physician assisted dying.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, and/or ideas for further advocacy initiatives!

Sincerely,

Jessica Harris

VP Government Affairs, 2015 – 2016

vpgovtaffairs@cfms.org // jessica.harris@usask.ca