

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Yipeng Ge, CFMS Director of Government Affairs
2019 Spring General Meeting
April 11-13, 2019, Niagara Falls, ON



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), 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 President and 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. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

CFMS Day of Action: Seniors Care and Aging

The CFMS National Day of Action is an annual event where medical students from across Canada gather on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to engage with Members of Parliament (MPs) and other federal policymakers on a pressing topic in Canadian healthcare and to advocate for evidence-based policy recommendations that will have a positive impact on the health of Canadians.

On February 4th, 2019, 76 medical students had 56 meetings with MPs, across the three major federal political parties, including meetings with Ministers, including the Minister of Seniors, Minister of Health, Minister of Veteran Affairs, Minister of Labour, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and President of the Treasury Board. Medical students outlined to policymakers the context of seniors' care and aging in Canada, the opportunities that this group has to offer, and our three policy recommendations that would help Canadians to age with dignity, and with access to necessary supports and appropriate resources. Our three policy recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Commit to targeted funding and development of a National Seniors Strategy for the 2019 federal election.
- 2) Commit to the development of a national evidence-based formulary as a first step towards designing and implementing a truly universal, comprehensive, and cost-effective National Pharmacare Program that provides access to drugs for all Canadians. Work in collaboration with national experts to promote targeted deprescribing to minimize polypharmacy.
- 3) Support national leadership on developing and tracking quality indicators, to enhance the quality of and access to home care, palliative care, and community care provided in the provinces/territories, at the next Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum.

Our medical learners are becoming increasingly aware of how the social determinants of health and politics affect the health of our patients. There is significant interest in medical learners to learn the skills of a health advocate so that they can play an active role in shaping public policy and to create a healthier society for today and tomorrow.

Related links:

- Our summary report: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Day%20of%20Action%202019%20Follow-up%20Summary%20Report.pdf>
- Our background research document: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Seniors%20Care%20and%20Aging%20Backgrounder.pdf>
- Our consultation document: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Seniors%20Care%20and%20Aging%20Consultation.pdf>
- Our ask summary, handout to MPs: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Seniors%20Care%20and%20Aging%20Summary.pdf>
- Our press release: <https://www.cfms.org/news/2019/02/04/press-release-DoA.html>

Day of Action 2020

The CFMS Spring General Meeting will provide a space for dialogue to set preliminary ideas and agendas for the CFMS Day of Action 2020. I look forward to working closely with the incoming Dir GA, National Officer of Political Action, and the Day of Action Research Committee to transition over the summer months in setting the foundation for a strong advocacy platform and strategy for 2019-2020.

Physician Resource Planning and the Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate

The CFMS is continually working across portfolios internally, and constantly advocating and communicating externally, to advance solutions and outcomes to better address the difficult issue of proper physician resource planning and the high number of unmatched Canadian medical graduates. The CFMS advocacy portfolio will be holding advocacy meetings with federal MPs in late-April 2019 to discuss federal and national solutions. While, continual and sustained political action can be seen through the Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) Lobby Day and the University of British Columbia medical student government affairs and advocacy team, at the provincial levels.

Committee on Health Policy

The Committee on Health Policy has been hard at work over the past few months updating the CFMS advocacy tracker outlining our existing guiding documents and areas of advocacy related to guiding recommendations, reviewing and updating previous guiding documents, and reviewing and providing commentary for incoming papers submitted for SGM 2019. The Committee has also been assisting the development of the CFMS federal election strategy to engage medical students in the upcoming federal election.

Rapid Response Team

The Rapid Response Team made up of medical students interested in assisting the CFMS in developing materials in response to pertinent and dynamic public and healthcare issues, has formed for its second year and developing priorities to analyse and prepare supporting evidence and analysis for, including national physician licensure and the 2019 federal budget interpretation.

Targeted Task Forces

A variety of targeted task forces within the CFMS advocacy portfolio with representation of medical student membership from across Canada, have been working hard on strategies to move forward on a variety of issues impacting the health and wellbeing of Canadians. A handful of these targeted task forces have brought forward thoughtful and researched guiding documents for hopeful adoption by the assembly at SGM 2019. A few examples of these task forces include: Pharmacare, National Seniors Strategy, Homelessness, Criminal Justice Reform.

Local Initiatives

A multitude of advocacy efforts at local and provincial levels by medical student leaders are certainly worth highlighting and commending for their tremendous leadership and efforts to advance medical learner issues and health systems concerns to enhance the health of Canadians in their communities. A few examples of such work include:

- University of British Columbia medical students call for increased residency spots to curb doctor shortage in the province: <https://globalnews.ca/video/5021666/ubc-medical-students-push-for-more-residency-training-spots>
- University of Saskatchewan medical students call on provincial health ministry for universal access to abortion pill: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/mifegymiso-abortion-pill-universal-access-saskatchewan-1.5064647>
- University of Alberta and University of Calgary medical students call on Alberta government to take action on province's low rate of organ donors: <https://www.thestar.com/edmonton/2018/12/02/medical-students-calling-on-government-to-take-action-on-albertas-low-rate-of-organ-donors.html>
- Memorial University of Newfoundland medical students call for insulin pump coverage for all Newfoundland and Labrador residents: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/insulin-pumps-newfoundland-1.5070701>
- University of Manitoba medical student leaders call for coverage for HIV prevention pill: <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/hiv-prevention-pill-should-be-free-for-high-risk-patients-medical-students-1.4328868>
- University of Western Ontario medical students call for including naloxone kits in city facilities: <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/naloxone-kits-coming-to-city-recreational-facilities-london-council-decides>

III. ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended:

<u>Meeting Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
CFMS Annual General Meeting 2018	September 20-23, 2018	Montreal, QC
Medical Council of Canada Annual Meeting	September 23-25, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Day of Action Committee Meeting	September 26, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	September 30, 2018	Teleconference
Phone call with David (National Officer of Health Policy)	October 2, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS Board Meeting Teleconference	October 4, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting re: Homeless Health Summit and Homelessness Task Force, with Dr. Kevin Pottie and Shanza Hashmi (past NOHP)	October 10, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with CMA Political Action team re: CMA Very Involved Physicians Program	October 12, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Debbie (Ontario Regional Director and Govt Affairs Dyad Partner)	October 12, 2018	Phone Call
Phone call with uOttawa GAAC team re: municipal lobby day	October 12, 2018	Phone Call
CMA National Health Policy Conference	October 14, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Medical Association (OMA) President's Tour – District 8 Meeting	October 16, 2018	Ottawa, ON

Event organized by Ottawa Health Law: Café Scientifique: The Law, Policy and Ethics of Legal Cannabis	October 17, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Federal Election Strategy Team Meeting	October 20, 2018	Teleconference
GAAC National Teleconference Meeting	October 21, 2018	Teleconference
FMEQ + CFMS Meeting on Lobby Day/Day of Action Teleconference	October 22, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Fall Board Meeting	October 26-28, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with CMA Political Action Team re: CMA Advocacy Training for medical students	October 30, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with MPP John Fraser (Ottawa South), discussing unmatched medical graduates, seniors care	November 2, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Debbie (Ontario Regional Director and Govt Affairs Dyad Partner) at OMSW	November 3, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call interview with Taylor Blewett re: CFMS position paper on legalization of recreational cannabis	November 4, 2018	Phone Call
Maclean's Parliamentarian of the Year event with CMA, as uOttawa CMA Ambassador	November 5, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS GHA National Teleconference	November 5, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Science Policy Conference 2018	November 7-9, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	November 11, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Assembly of First Nations Health File and CFMS National Officer of Indigenous Health (Joshua Nash)	November 13, 2018	Phone Call
Event by uOttawa Health Law: Mapping the Evidence for Social and Public Policy	November 13, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Alex and Paddy (Co-Leads of CFMS Rapid Response Team)	November 14, 2018	Teleconference
Day of Action Research Committee Meeting	November 15, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Global Health Students and Young Professionals Summit (GHSYPS)	November 18, 2018	Toronto, ON
CFMS Committee on Health Policy Meeting	November 18, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Meeting (Absent)	November 18, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Conference on Global Health	November 19-21, 2018	Toronto, ON
Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) Annual General Meeting	November 19, 2018	Toronto, ON
Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) Annual General Meeting	November 20, 2018	Toronto, ON
CMA Annual Party on the Hill with MPs and Physician Leaders	November 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Homeless Health Summit	November 26-28, 2018	Toronto, ON
Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Finance Committee Teleconference Meeting	November 26, 2018	Teleconference
CHLNet Leadership Dialogue on Empowering Women Leaders	November 28, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Climate Change event on "Getting to Zero", Justice Transitions and Political Will	November 28, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National Day of Action Research Committee Meeting	November 28, 2018	Teleconference
Interviews for CFMS National Day of Action Coordinator at CFMS Office	November 30, 2018	Ottawa, ON

Phone call with Alastair Spriggs re: CFMS position paper on legalization of recreational cannabis	November 30, 2018	Phone Call
Canadian Health Coalition Event on Talking Across Silos in Canada's Health Movements	December 1, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Silvio (OMSA Director of Representation)	December 1, 2018	Phone Call
Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly	December 4-5, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Medical Association (OMA) Physician Advocacy Day at Queen's Park	December 6, 2018	Toronto, ON
Meeting with Dr. Frank Molnar (Canadian Geriatrics Society President)	December 7, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with CFMS Pharmacare Task Force leads (Bart and Hilary)	December 9, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS Committee on Health Policy Meeting	December 9, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	December 9, 2018	Teleconference
National Geriatrics Interest Group (NGIG) Teleconference Meeting	December 12, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS National Day of Action Research Committee Meeting	December 12, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with CFMS uCMG File Co-Leads (Avrilynn and Ailish), with OMSA Director of Representation (Silvio) and Ontario Regional Director (Debbie)	December 15, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Meeting	December 16, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Linda Lam, National Officer of Political Action	December 23, 2018	Toronto, ON
CFMS Winter Board Meeting	January 5-6, 2019	Toronto, ON
Meeting with MD Financial Management to review building and room for Day of Action weekend	January 8, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Touch base phone call with Rebecca, GAAC at MUN	January 9, 2019	Phone Call
NDoA Research Committee Meeting	January 11, 2019	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference	January 13, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting with RDocs Practice Committee working on National Physician Licensure advocacy	January 14, 2019	Teleconference
Phone call with Editor from the Lobby Monitor news outlet regarding Day of Action	January 16, 2019	Phone Call
Phone call with Minister Chagger's Office regarding room booking for Day of Action	January 16, 2019	Phone Call
Visit CFMS Office to pick up Day of Action supplies	January 16, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Holly and Kelsey, of CMA Political Action team regarding training at NDoA	January 16, 2019	Phone Call
NDoA Research Committee Meeting	January 18, 2019	Teleconference
NDoA Research Committee Meeting	January 25, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting on NDoA QI Project implementation	January 28, 2019	Teleconference
Phone Call with CMA to discuss Day of Action press release	January 30, 2019	Phone Call
CFMS National Day of Action on Seniors Care and Aging Weekend	February 2-4, 2019	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Board Meeting	February 10, 2019	Teleconference
Phone call to touch-base with Silvio, OMSA Director of Representation	February 17, 2019	Phone Call

Opioids Response Team Meeting with CCSA	February 20, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Parliamentary Reception on Neglected Tropical Diseases	February 20, 2019	Ottawa, ON
Phone Call meeting to discuss CFMS NDoA 2.0 advocacy meetings on uCMGs with MPs	February 20, 2019	Teleconference
Day of Action Debrief Meeting and Call	February 24, 2019	Teleconference
Phone Call meeting with Debbie, CFMS Ontario Regional Director and Gov't Affairs Dyad Partner	February 27, 2019	Phone Call
National GAAC Teleconference	March 10, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS Board Monthly Teleconference	March 17, 2019	Teleconference
OMSA Lobby Day	April 6-8, 2019	Toronto, ON
National GAAC Teleconference	April 7, 2019	Teleconference
CFMS SGM 2019 and Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) 2019	April 11-14, 2019	Niagara Falls, ON

IV. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

It has been one of my greatest experiences and honours thus far in my short medical education career to have the opportunity and privilege to learn from, work with, and advocate with so many other medical learners from across the country that are deeply passionate and engaged in their health advocacy work. It is incredibly inspiring and invigorating to learn from medical learner leaders with such strong guiding values and principles, with the collective vision and compass to enhance the health of Canadians and improve the system in which we live, play, and thrive in.

In the coming months towards the latter half of my appointment in this role, I intend to continue to deliver an agenda that elevates the CFMS advocacy portfolio that continually showcases and supports the health advocacy work being done by medical students across Canada. This includes providing appropriate transition to the incoming Dir GA, providing foresight and direction for the sustainability and future direction of the portfolio, developing the CFMS federal election strategy, and continuing the various exciting files and task forces that lies within this portfolio.

I would like to thank everyone that played any sort of role within the CFMS advocacy portfolio, whether it be through the capacity of being a National Officer, a task force lead, a task force member, or a committee member that assisted in any work that made the 2019 Day of Action a success, the collaborators that participated in our consultations process, external stakeholder partners that provide guidance to our work, and anyone else that contributed, was involved, or spent time in learning about our work. None of this would be possible without you – and I sincerely look forward to leading this portfolio for the coming months with your guidance and assistance.

Thank you for taking the time in reviewing and reading this report, and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions, or would like to be involved in any part of our advocacy work.

With sincere gratitude,



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Director of Government Affairs | Directeur aux affaires gouvernementales

Canadian Federation of Medical Students | Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

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