



EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Helen Teklemariam, Director Government Affairs
2020 Spring General Meeting
Virtual Platform, April 15-17th 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

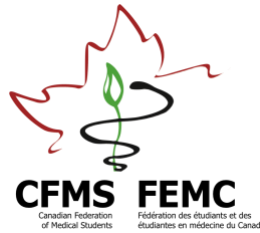
The Director of Government Affairs has a variety of duties related to leading and coordinating the CFMS's local, provincial, and national political advocacy efforts. More specifically, the Director of Government Affairs oversees and helps facilitate the CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Representative Committee, the Committee on Health Policy, the Day of Action Topic Selection and Research Committees and the Rapid Response Team, alongside the respective leads and National Officers. Director of Government Affairs also leads the CFMS National Day of Action in Ottawa, ON. The Director of Government Affairs is responsible for encouraging and facilitating local advocacy efforts at member schools. Occasionally, the Director of Government Affairs will also represent the CFMS to various external committees and organizations as deemed necessary by the president and executive.

II. Selected Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting	Location
April 22 nd 2019	Introductory Call with Director GA	Teleconference
April 27 th 2019	Introductory Call Government Affairs Leads	Teleconference
April 28 th 2019	Introductory GAAC Rep Roundtable Call	Teleconference
May 15 th 2019	Introductory CMA Call	Teleconference
June 25 th 2019	Introductory President Check-In	Teleconference



Sept 19-22 nd 2019	CFMS Annual General Meeting	St. John's, NL
Sept 22 nd 2019	Board Meeting #1	Teleconference
Sept. 25 th 2019	Call with HHR Lead	Teleconference
Oct. 3 rd 2019	Government Affairs Leads Check-In	Teleconference
Oct 15 th 2019	David Suzuki Foundation Webinar	Teleconference
Oct 15 th 2019	Dyad Check-In	Teleconference
Oct 20 th 2019	CFMS President Check-In	Teleconference
Oct 20 th 2019	GAAC Rep Roundtable #1	Teleconference
Oct 20 th 2019	Board Meeting #2	Teleconference
Oct 25 th -27 th 2019	Fall Board Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Oct 24 th 2019	GAAC Rep Roundtable #2	Teleconference
Nov 21 st 2019	Broadbent Institute Dinner – CMA Table	Toronto, ON
Nov 24 th 2019	Board Meeting #3	Teleconference
Nov 27 th 2019	Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Co-Chair Call	Teleconference
Dec 7 th 2019	Government Affairs Leads Check-In	Teleconference
Dec 12 th 2019	EDI Co-Chair Call	Teleconference
Dec 15 th 2019	CFMS President Check-In	Teleconference
Dec 15 th 2019	Board Meeting #4	Teleconference
Dec 21 st 2019	RRT Lead Call	Teleconference
Dec 21 st 2019	EDI Task Force Call	Teleconference
Jan 4-5 th 2020	Board Meeting #5	Toronto, ON
Jan 12 th 2020	GAAC Rep Roundtable #3	Teleconference
Feb 2 nd 2020	NDoA Research Committee Check-In	Teleconference
Feb 14 th 2019	NOHP Call	Teleconference
Feb 16 th 2020	NOPA Call	Teleconference
Feb 16 th 2020	Board Meeting #6	Teleconference
Feb 16 th 2020	EDI Co-Chair Call	Teleconference
Feb 19 th 2020	GAAC Rep Roundtable #4	Teleconference
Feb 22 nd -23 rd 2020	National Day of Action Training	Ottawa, ON
Feb 24 th 2020	National Day of Action	Ottawa, ON
Feb 27 th 2020	Introductory call with CFPC	Teleconference
Mar 9 th 2020	EDI Task Force Call	Teleconference
Mar 15 th 2020	Board Meeting #7	Teleconference
Mar 17 th 2020	RRT Lead COVID-19 Call	Teleconference



Mar 18 th 2020	CMAq Lead Introductory Call	Teleconference
Mar 20 th 2020	Presidents Round Table Call	Teleconference
Apr 5 th 2020	CFMS President Check-In	Teleconference
Apr 5 th 2020	Board Meeting #8	Teleconference
April 10 th 2020	EDI Task Force Call	Teleconference

III. Priorities and Project Areas

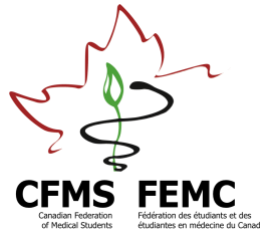
a. Relevant Advocacy

i. National Day of Action (NDoA): The NDoA is a national annual advocacy initiative that includes students from each medical school in Canada attending advocacy training, and subsequent meetings with parliamentarians in Ottawa, Ontario. This year, NDoA occurred on Monday, February 24th with training the two days prior. The topic for NDoA this year was Universal Access to Contraception. The three items that we asked for were to 1). Provide federally sponsored universal coverage of contraception, 2). Sponsor public education campaigns to endorse the SOGC guidelines about contraceptive methods and use and 3). Implement a federally supported task-shifting model to include allied healthcare in contraceptive prescribing. The attendees have each strategized how to best individually follow up on the advocacy asks, in addition to the national follow up strategy.

ii. Position papers: The Committee on Health Policy (COHP) is diligently continuing to produce and review position papers, with the intention of assisting the authors in making the position papers, discussion papers and policy statements easy to follow and as succinct as possible. The newly formed Social Determinants of Health Task Force is led by COHP members and intends to produce a position paper as well.

b. Collaboration

i. A collaboration between the Global Health and Government Affairs Portfolio is in development to produce an online portal with previous national, provincial, and municipal day of action backgrounder documents, as well as other advocacy initiatives from across the country. The portal will allow medical students to easily access previous advocacy documents, as well as collaborate on ongoing projects.



c. Communication

- i. The Rapid Response Team will continue to digest information and develop communications on health policies across the country. Currently they are collaborating to update information related to COVID-19 on the CFMS website.
- iii. In the near future, the Rapid Response Team will collaborate with the Government Affairs and Advocacy Representative Roundtable to produce a newsletter with health policy updates from around to country to be distributed to all interested medical students.

d. Health and Human Resources

- i. The health and human resources team has been working hard on developing a Health and Human Resources Platform to help display the various need for physicians across the country.

IV. Future & Action Items

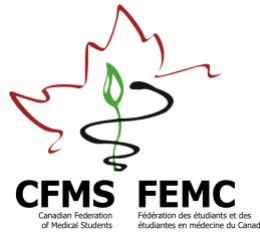
a. COVID-19 Implications to the Government Affairs Portfolio

Initially, there was extensive planned follow up to the National Day of Action, including letter-writing campaigns, local education campaigns, and follow-up visits with Members of Parliament. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this will no longer occur within the pre-determined timeline. For everyone's health and safety, all follow-up to the National Day of Action will occur once it is safe for individuals to gather in groups. In addition to complying with Public Health recommendations, the follow-up for NDoA has been decided to be post-poned due to the government focus on pandemic-related issues, and it is our belief that our advocacy will be most impactful after the pandemic.

The Government Affairs portfolio has held a second Day of Action for the past two years on unmatched Canadian medical graduates. This event will either be cancelled or postponed, depending on when it will again be safe to hold it.

b. Other.

The Government Affairs portfolio in the meantime will be working on areas that do not involve personal contact such as developing a health policy newsletter, an online advocacy portal, and the ongoing task force work, as described above.



V. Reflections and Conclusions

The Government Affairs portfolio has the potential to be relevant to all Canadian medical students, as it pertains to health policy and health advocacy. Working within this portfolio has been a privilege thus far, and I hope to continue to work with my medical student peers across the country to make the contents of his portfolio as relevant and accessible as possible. I look forward to continue to work towards the overarching goals in this portfolio to increase member engagement, enrich health advocacy education, and provide the tools required to allow medical students to develop into effective advocates.

Sincerely,

Helen Teklemariam, BSc

MD Candidate 2020 | University of Manitoba

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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