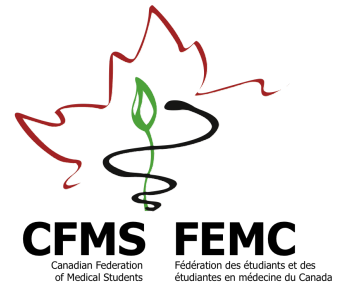


# EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Montana Hackett  
Director of Government Affairs  
April 2022 – Spring General Meeting  
Calgary, Alberta*



## 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) GAAC RT**

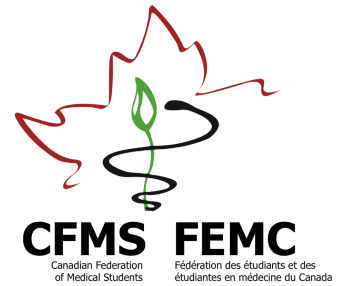
The GAAC RT was expanded to include the GHAs (this should be revisited as a combined RT was too large. Separate RTs for each would be more effective for ensuring engagement and space) with the option of GovtAffairs portfolio members being able to attend if they wanted as observers.

#### **2) 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

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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!

### **3) 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.

### **4) 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!

### **5) Indigenous Week of Advocacy**

The previous two years of this effort were unable to get anything off the ground so the approach that was taken this year was to provide a designated team with support and funding to work at their own pace. The team is currently working on advocacy around Water Advisories in the context of Indigenous sovereignty. The team will be moved to the Indigenous Health portfolio this Spring.

### **6) 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.

### **7) Media Strategy and Engagement Team**

As part of the new communications portfolio changes to include Portfolio specific Communications Coordinators, they were given a team to operate within GovtAffairs. This team will likely be discontinued in the context of the changes undergoing the Communications portfolio in order to best streamline their processes.

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

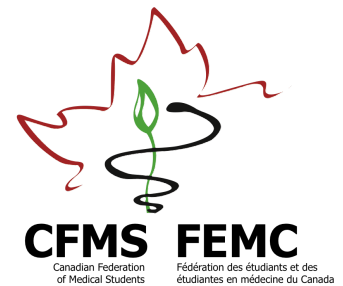
The HHRTF was given freedom to continue their work as they transition from platform creation to maintenance and improvement.

### **9) 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.

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## **10) 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 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**

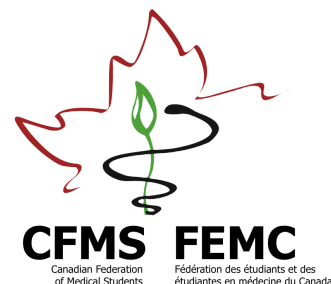
The team of 5 medical students—Ayushi (our Advocacy Follow-Up Lead), Sidra, Ramy, Ethan, and Ali—have been working diligently to expand the background research to include the provincial contexts as well as the EDI priorities mentioned earlier. The group is deep into prepping for the FNDofA in Ottawa scheduled for May 7-9th as well as the new Month of Advocacy occurring after.

## **Indigenous Week of Advocacy**

The team of 5 medical students—Dixon (our interim lead), Lynn, John, Madeson, and Priscilla.

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They have discussed a variety of topics to focus on and as a group voted for their focus to be Water Advisories in the context of Indigenous sovereignty. They are still early in the process but are aiming to launch their work early in 2023. The team will be moving to the Indigenous Health portfolio once it has launched.

## III. MEETINGS ATTENDED

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>
Oct. 23rd, 2021	CFMS AGM 2021	Teleconference
Oct. 26th, 2021	CFMS Interviews	Teleconference
Nov. 2nd, 2021	PAT Meeting	Teleconference
Nov. 4th, 2021	NDoA Planning Meeting	Teleconference
Nov. 7th, 2021	GovtAffairs Oct RT	Teleconference
Nov. 14th, 2021	GovtAffairs Onboarding Meeting	Teleconference
Nov. 15th, 2021	Advocacy Incubator Discussion	Teleconference
Nov. 20th, 2021	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
Nov. 28th, 2021	IWoA Meeting	Teleconference
Nov. 29th, 2021	Advocacy Incubator Discussion	Teleconference
Nov. 30th, 2021	CFMS Drug Overdose Paper Meeting	Teleconference
Dec. 1st, 2021	LATS Meeting	Teleconference
Dec. 3rd, 2021	1/3 Term Check-In - Advocacy Follow-Up Lead	Teleconference

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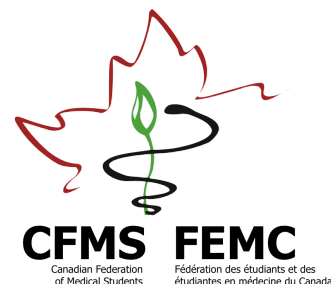
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Dec. 3rd, 2021	1/3 Term Check-In - GA-CC	Teleconference
Dec. 4th, 2021	1/3 Term Check-In - NOPA	Teleconference
Dec. 4th, 2021	1/3 Term Check-In - Rapid Response Lead	Teleconference
Dec. 4th, 2021	1/3 Term Check-In - NOHP	Teleconference
Dec. 4th, 2021	1/3 Term Check-In - LATS Coordinators	Teleconference
Dec. 6th, 2021	Advocacy Incubator Discussion	Teleconference
Dec. 6th, 2021	GovtAffairs RT	Teleconference
Dec. 9th, 2021	NDoA Backgrounder Meeting	Teleconference
Dec. 12th, 2021	CFMS Board Hangout	Teleconference
Dec. 30th, 2021	GovtAffairs Communications Coordinator	Teleconference
Jan. 9th, 2021	c2023 Meeting	Teleconference
Jan. 9th, 2021	CFMS RRT	Teleconference
Jan. 9th, 2021	VP Communications Meeting	Teleconference
Jan. 11th, 2021	NDoA RCom Meeting	Teleconference
Jan. 15th, 2021	Sask Conference Speaking Event Part 1	Teleconference
Jan. 16th, 2021	GovtAffairs Leadership Meeting	Teleconference

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Jan. 16th, 2021	CFMS Board of Directors Meeting	Teleconference
Jan. 16th, 2021	c2023 Meeting	Teleconference
Jan. 17th, 2021	IWoA Meeting #2	Teleconference
Jan. 19th, 2021	Outreach: Queen's GAAC Meeting	Teleconference
Jan. 22nd, 2021	Sask Conference Speaking Event Part 2	Teleconference
Jan. 25th, 2021	Outreach: Manitoba MedSoc	Teleconference
Jan. 26th, 2021	Outreach: Queen's MedSoc	Teleconference
Jan. 30th, 2021	NDoA RCom Meeting	Teleconference
Feb. 2nd, 2021	Outreach: Western's MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 3rd, 2021	Outreach: McGill's MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 6th, 2021	Feedback Office Hour	Teleconference
Feb. 6th, 2021	CFMS Recruitment Meeting	Teleconference
Feb. 7th, 2021	Bill C-3 Discussion	Teleconference
Feb. 7th, 2021	Outreach: Dalhousie MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 8th, 2021	Outreach: Alberta MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 9th, 2021	Outreach: NOSM MedSoc	Teleconference

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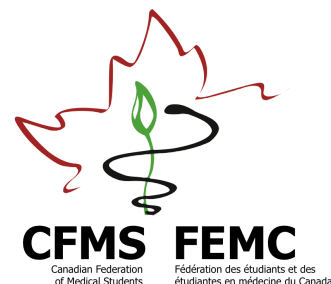
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Feb. 9th, 2021	Outreach: UBC PAC MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 10th, 2021	Outreach: Sask MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 10th, 2021	Quebec RD	Teleconference
Feb. 12th, 2021	Director of Education Discussion	Teleconference
Feb. 14th, 2021	Outreach: Mac MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 16th, 2021	Outreach: CFMNB MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 17th, 2021	Past President Discussion	Teleconference
Feb. 17th, 2021	OMSA Check-In	Teleconference
Feb. 19th, 2021	NOHP Check-In	Teleconference
Feb. 19th, 2021	IWoA Lead Check-In	Teleconference
Feb. 20th, 2021	NOPA Check-In	Teleconference
Feb. 20th, 2021	VP Comms Discussion	Teleconference
Feb. 22nd, 2021	Outreach: MUN MedSoc	Teleconference
Feb. 22nd, 2021	Advocacy Follow-Up Meeting	Teleconference
Feb. 25th, 2021	CFMS Interim Governance Committee	Teleconference
Feb. 26th, 2021	CFMS Games Night	Teleconference

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Feb. 27th, 2021	CFMS Winter Board Meeting	Teleconference
Feb. 28th, 2021	NDoA RCom Meeting	Teleconference
March. 2nd, 2021	Outreach: Moncton MedSoc	Teleconference
March. 6th, 2021	GovtAffiars RT	Teleconference
March. 7th, 2021	Director of Global Health Check-In	Teleconference
March. 9th, 2021	CMHF Presentation	Teleconference
March. 19th, 2021	Health Policy ToR Session	Teleconference
March. 21st, 2021	FNDoA Discussion	Teleconference
March. 22nd, 2021	CFMS IWoA Meeting	Teleconference
March. 22nd, 2021	Outreach: MUN MedSoc	Teleconference
March. 25th, 2021	CFMS In-Person Winter Board Meeting	Ottawa
March. 26th, 2021	CFMS In-Person Winter Board Meeting	Ottawa
March. 27th, 2021	CFMS In-Person Winter Board Meeting	Ottawa
March. 28th, 2021	Board Candidate Meeting	Teleconference
March. 29th, 2021	Past President Check-In	Teleconference
April. 2nd, 2021	FNDoA Planning Team Meeting	Teleconference



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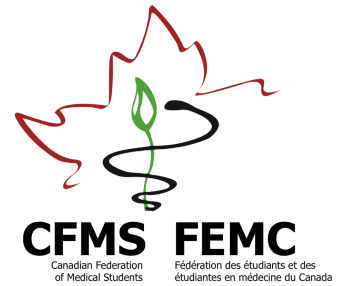
April. 2nd, 2021	Board Candidate Meeting	Teleconference
April. 2nd, 2021	FNDoA Roundtable with GAACs/GHAs	Teleconference
April. 4th, 2021	SGM Planning Meeting	Teleconference
April. 8th, 2021	CMA/Dr. Smart Meeting	Teleconference
April. 13th, 2021	Board Candidate	Teleconference
April. 14th, 2021	Residency Match Lead Check-In	Teleconference
April. 15th, 2021	FNDoA Marking Check-In	Teleconference
April. 15th, 2021	HESA Panel Check-In	Teleconference
April. 19th, 2021	Resolutions Marketplace	Teleconference
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

## 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

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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**

M.D. Candidate 2023 - Western University

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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