



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Medical Students Support the Resident Representation on Royal College Committees**

OTTAWA, October 27th 2012 – The Canadian Association of Internes and Residents (CAIR) is the national representative body of over 8,000 Resident Physicians in Canada. CAIR works collaboratively with other national health organizations to continuously improve patient care and explore new approaches in the delivery of health care.

Recently, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) eliminated CAIR's voting positions from their Education Committee and Committee on Specialties.

As the official national representative body of medical students, the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is deeply concerned with these changes. Just as the CFMS believes that democratically elected medical student representatives should have a voting voice on committees affecting our education and certification, so too do we support CAIR in their endeavours to be reinstated. Moreover, medical students are all future residents, and have a direct stake in issues pertaining to their own future education.

As trainees in Royal College programs, residents are uniquely affected by Royal College decision-making in ways that other stakeholder groups are not. The work of the Education Committee and the Committee on Specialties relates directly to residents and their educational experience. The Royal College is best served by including CAIR's democratically elected resident

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representatives with voting status in order to provide meaningful, substantive and representative input.

Resident views are best brought forward by their democratically-elected CAIR representatives, who have a long-standing history of providing comprehensive, reliable and timely input to the RCPSC and other national stakeholders. Residents selected from outside the representative-democratic process of CAIR could provide views that are not informed by consensus, context or precedent, and have little or no accountability.

The CFMS strongly urges the Royal College to value and incorporate residents' collective views by restoring voting positions to CAIR-nominated residents.

*The Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is a national organization that represents over 7500 medical students at 14 medical schools across Canada.*

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