

Dr Eric Cadesky

for Speaker of the Representative Assembly

The Representative Assembly (RA) is your forum and the Speaker's job is to ensure you feel safe, respected, and well-prepared to make effective decisions.

I was privileged to be part of creating the RA as our Association entered into a new democratic era of governance with a smaller board and increased representative body. Since its creation I have sat on the RA, learning and sharing alongside you as President-Elect and President of Doctors of BC and this year as a voting member. We have worked together to shape the current format, choose discussion topics, and set the culture of this new forum. Looking to the future, the Speaker of the RA will play a key role in the work that I began as your President.

Creating a safe and welcoming space that reflects the diversity of our association and promotes inclusion and equity is at the heart of this work. Surveys and working groups have revealed the ongoing legacies of racism and discrimination in our profession and our Association. We must address and overcome these systemic barriers and implicit biases. I will facilitate the RA in a way that allows us to meaningfully engage in the difficult and important conversations that we need to have on issues like these as well as opioid and substance use, social determinants of health, climate change, and the corporatization of medicine.

The steps required to achieve this include:

- Leveraging the pandemic-induced move to video conferencing and messaging so that all RA members are able to participate as they choose;
- Scheduling meeting times around RA members' professional and personal lives as well as ensuring that the content of our meetings is meaningful and actionable;
- Providing the necessary background and context for members to prepare for meetings and contribute with confidence.

While we must make it easier to attend the RA, it's not enough simply to be present. I remember my first years on our Association's large board and how intimidating it was to be swept into fast-moving discussions of complex issues. Preparing for topics and orienting RA members to forum rules, structure and history is central to ensuring everyone can contribute as they like. While some prefer speaking at a microphone, it is also important to use chat and messaging functions so that everyone can share their ideas in the way that they are most comfortable.

We are barely three years into our new governance structure. I am encouraged by our shared goal of creating a positive culture and building trust while ensuring Board accountability. As Speaker, cultivating emerging leaders and succession planning are my priorities as the RA evolves.

I will actively solicit your feedback on my performance and promise to constantly focus on amplifying your voice. I commit to run efficient, inclusive, and engaging meetings. The Speaker is central to the RA reaching its full potential and I thank you for your support.



Sincerely,

Eric Cadesky

Resumé

DOCTORS OF BC BOARD

President (2018-19)
President-Elect (2017-18)
Chair of the General Assembly (2016-17)
Honorary Secretary Treasurer (2015-16)
District 3 Delegate (2012-15)

THE LOUIS BRIER HOME & HOSPITAL

Medical Director (2009-17)

FASHIONING DREAMS

Chair (2011-17)
A social enterprise supporting HIV-positive women and men and South Africa

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Clinical Assistant Professor (2006-)

PRACTICE SURVIVAL SKILLS CONFERENCE (UBC)

Chair (2009-17)

VANCOUVER DIVISION OF FAMILY PRACTICE

Member (2011-)
CHA 1 Steering Committee
Previous member of Residential Care and
Information Technology Committees

REVIEWER

CMAJ
British Medical Journal
Canadian Family Physician

MCGILL UNIVERSITY MEDICINE CLASS OF 2004

President

THE DOCTORS' OFFICE

Full-Service Family Physician (2006-)