

AN OPEN LETTER TO MY COLLEAGUES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA – I NEED YOUR VOTE & SUPPORT

Dear Physician Colleagues;

On April 24th 2015 you will receive an invitation from the Doctors of BC (BCMA) to elect the next President-Elect of our association. I am seeking your support and your vote.

This election for President-Elect of Doctors of BC is about choosing a leader who has proven that they can produce results on behalf of the entire profession. If elected, I will extend my efforts to support you in your career, your workplace, your hospitals, your health authorities, and in the responsible governance of our association.



Twenty-four years as a full-service rural generalist physician have afforded me broad interaction with many of our GP and specialist colleagues: in the community, on-call for 18 years in the emergency room, and in the acute care hospital environment. Over the years I have taken a considerate, determined and when necessary, firm stand on behalf of our patients and the profession.

British Columbia is a wonderful place to live and work. Many of the incentives that support you in your career and practice have been achieved through hard work and determined effort in negotiations to ensure that we receive fair economic reward. I am proud to have been part of these efforts in our province.

You and your colleagues have had the confidence to see me serve on your behalf on the Doctors of BC Board for a second term, and also as the GP Member-at-

Large elected to the Board Executive. I co-chair the provincial Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, and have been a member since 2007. In this time I been effective in ensuring our benefits are protected and enhanced over two cycles of Physician Master Agreement negotiations. We require this same strong voice and advocacy in leadership of our association.

It is not in my nature to back down on issues of principle, equity or professionalism.

Real leadership is not about titles, positions or rising through organizational charts. Real leadership is about inspiring other leaders to support our goals. My performance as a medical leader, and my formidable skills in the boardroom confirm that I can be a disciplined and effective bridge between goals and accomplishments.

I have a clear and strong appreciation for the value of our profession and I recognize that it's time we do better to put our patients first.

- It is time for our profession to lead with authority and take a determined stand on requiring accountability from our health authorities and government;
- I support a publicly funded healthcare system;
- It is time to rally for and protect efficient, effective and quality patient care;
- It is time to ensure our hospitals are a rewarding environment in which to work and inspire a generation of new leaders.

I am committed to promoting change in a number of key areas affecting our profession:

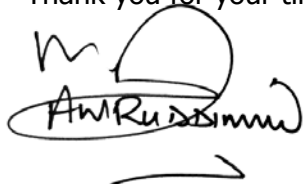
1. We must champion generalism in practice as the foundation of community and hospital care while elevating awareness of the essential expertise our specialist colleagues contribute to the excellence of care in B.C. We are in this together!
2. We can and must do better to lead the Health Authorities in seeking solutions to ER gridlocks and hospital overcrowding. We have the insight and the skill, so let us resolve to free up our ER and acute care beds and reclaim them as “functional” acute beds, so we can ensure effective and timely care for all.
3. Our profession must lead with authority to dismantle the barriers of layered administration and regulation that prevent physicians from exercising influence and decision making in the governance and operation of acute care facilities. Our relationship with the health authorities requires urgent attention so we must create effective partnerships that value and respect physician input towards timely and practical solutions.
4. Responsible leadership will be demonstrated by promoting gender diversity in our boardroom and committees, by creating appropriate balance between specialists and general practitioners, and encouraging our younger colleagues to take active roles in our association. By embracing diverse thought we can break down barriers to progress and meaningful change and turn a talking shop into a workshop.
5. By encouraging and supporting clinical teaching in our practices and professional lives, and by mentoring our new graduates as they seek to establish valuable medical careers in BC, we can harness the full value of our young professionals alongside our seasoned physicians towards the most effective and efficient care for our patients.



Please take the time to visit my website and video where you will find more information about my campaign. I encourage you to submit comments or any questions you may have through the website or by email. You can also follow me on social media. I hope to count on your support.

Please encourage your colleagues to do the same – every vote will count. Let's send a strong message to the Doctors of BC Board and to our government that protecting a strong and effective healthcare system in our province is worth fighting for. **Please vote for Dr. Alan Ruddiman for President-Elect of Doctors of BC.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Dr. Alan Ruddiman

*Full Service General Practice – Oliver, BC
Doctors of BC Board Executive – GP Member-at-Large
Doctors of BC Board Member – Okanagan (District 13)
Co-chair – Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues*

DR ALAN RUDDIMAN, MBBCh – BIOGRAPHY & LEADERSHIP CREDENTIALS

Professional - Education & Credentials:

1. MBBCh – Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 1989
2. Rotating Internship, South Africa, 1989 – 1990; Senior House Officer (OB/GYN) 1990 - 1991
3. Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination, 1991; Licentiate of Medical Council of Canada 1992
4. Federation of State Medical Licensing Boards – USA, Federation Licensing Examination, 1991
5. Advanced Training in OB/GYN & Feto-Maternal Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, 1995 – 1996
6. Established full-service rural general practice with ER enhanced skills, Oliver, BC – District 13, 1996
7. Post Graduate Diploma in Physician Executive Management, Simon Fraser University, 2001 – 2002
8. Fellowship in Rural & Remote Medicine, Society of Rural Physicians of Canada - 2009
9. University of British Columbia – Faculty of Medicine: Clinical Teacher – Students & Residents 2005 - present
10. College of Family Physicians of Canada – 5 year MAINPRO cycle completed Dec 2014

Relevant Experience (Leadership):

Current:

11. Doctors of BC Board & Board Executive
 1. Board Executive: GP Member-at-Large (elected by the Board), 2014 – present
 2. Doctors of BC Board of Directors: Resolutions Committee Member, 2013 – Present
 3. Doctors of BC Board of Directors – District 13 (Okanagan) Delegate, 2012 – Present
12. Society of General Practitioners of BC – Board Delegate (GP Member-at-Large); 2014 - present
13. Provincial Privileging Project: Expert Panels Appointee – Emergency Medicine and Family / General Practice Expert Panels, 2014 - present
14. Doctors of BC Rural Issues Committee: Member 2006 – 2014; Ex-officio as co-chair Rural JSC 2014 - present
15. Co-Chair: Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, 2014 – Present
16. Doctors of BC Negotiations Team: Lead - Targeted Rural Dossier, 2014 Physician Master Agreement (PMA)
17. International Medical Graduate Practice Readiness Assessment (IMG PRA) Steering Committee, Doctors of BC Appointee to provincial committee, 2013 – Present
18. Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc) - Management Committee Member, 2013 - present
19. South Okanagan General Hospital: Secretary of Medical Staff, Feb 2012 – Present
20. Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc): Sector Leader – Recruitment and Retention, 2011 – Present
21. Doctors of BC Negotiation Forum, Delegate, September 2011 – Present
22. Consultant – Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc), 2010 – Present
23. Doctors of BC Rural Subsidiary Negotiating Committee, Nov 2009 – Present
24. Doctors of BC Council on Health Economics and Policy (CHEP), 2008 – Present
25. Active Member of Medical Staff, Family Practice / ER and Acute Care Privileges, Apr. 1996 – Present
26. Senior Associate: Full-service rural general practice - Main Street Medical Associates, Oliver, 1996 - Present

Previous

27. Canadian Medical Association
 1. CMA General Council & AGM Delegate – Doctors of BC, 2013 and 2014
 2. CMA General Council: Presenter – “Medical Professionalism in BC” policy paper to CMA GC, 2013
 3. CMA General Council: Invited Panelist - “The Physician Unique Value Proposition”, CMA GC 2013
28. Doctors of BC: Chair of the Rural Issues Committee, July 2011 – October 2014
29. Doctors of BC Council on Health Economics and Policy
 1. Chair: CHEP Medical Professionalism Working Group – Medical Professionalism in BC Policy Paper 2011 – 2013 “*Medical Professionalism in British Columbia – Working Together: Exploration of Professional Relationships in Medicine*”. Presenter and lead at all Joint Collaborative Committees (GPSC / Shared Care / Specialist Services Committee and Doctors of BC Board. Presented at Canadian Medical Association General Council, Ottawa, 2014
 2. Member: CHEP, Patient- Focused-Funding Project Working Group & Policy Paper 2008 – 2009

30. Doctors of BC Board of Directors: Vice-Delegate District 13 (Okanagan), 2011 – 2012
31. Doctors of BC Appointee: Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, 2007 – 2014; Appointed co-chair 2014
32. Doctors of BC: Rural Issues Committee - Member, 2006 – 2014; Ex-officio member ongoing as co-chair JSC
33. Appointee (Rural GP Representative) BC Ministry of Health Diagnostic Imaging Focusing Session, Sept 2009
34. Doctors of BC Annual General Meeting: Resolutions Committee (elected from the floor), 2009 – 2014
35. Chair: Northwest Section of Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, 2005 – 2008
36. Vice Chair: Interior Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC), Jan 2009 – Apr 2010
37. Chair: Okanagan Health Services Area Medical Advisory Committee (RMAC), 2008 – 2010
38. Chief of Medical Staff: South Okanagan General Hospital, Oliver, Okanagan, 2005 – Feb 2010
39. Vice Chair, Interior Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC), Jan 2009 – Apr 2010
40. National Executive Member: Society of Rural Physicians of Canada 2002 – 2004
41. National Conference Convener: Society of Rural Physicians of Canada 11th Annual Rural & Remote Medicine – Kelowna, 2003
42. Scientific Lead: Society of Rural Physicians of Canada 10th National Rural & Remote Medicine Conference Kelowna, 2002
43. Member of National Council: Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, 1999 – 2001
44. President of Medical Staff, South Okanagan General Hospital, 1998 - 2002

Distinctions and Awards:

45. Fellowship in Rural and Remote Medicine (FRRMS): Society of Rural Physicians of Canada - Inaugural Recipient, 2009
46. Rural Long Service Award with Excellence (20 years): Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, 2012
47. Long Service Award (Gold – 15 year): Interior Health Authority, 2011
48. Long Service Award (Silver – 10 year): Interior Health Authority, 2006
49. Rural Long Service Award (10 years): Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, 2001

Memberships / Associations:

50. Doctors of BC / BC Medical Association, 1996 to present
51. Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice – Open Chapter, Joined 2015
52. South Okanagan Similkameen Division of Family Practice, 2010 to Present
53. Society of General Practitioners of BC
54. University of British Columbia – Faculty of Medicine
55. South Okanagan General Hospital: Active Medical Staff - Family Practice / ER, 1996 - Present
56. Canadian Medical Association, 1991 to Present
57. Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, (Founding Member) 1992 to Present
58. Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club, 2010 – Present
59. Roaring 40's Kiteboarding Club, Osoyoos, Okanagan Valley (Founding Member) 2009 - Present
60. Lake Osoyoos Sailing Club, Osoyoos, Okanagan Valley, 2001 - Present

Other Interests and notable events:

- Curious traveler - whether or not it's on land, on the water, or at times under
- Active yachtsman and sailor / racer - competed in Swiftsure Yacht Race in 2014
- One year sabbatical in 2010 – 2011. Live-aboard sailing with family (wife & teenage daughters) on a yacht in the Caribbean
- Proponent and advocate for a vibrant and prosperous BC and Okanagan wine industry
- Founding member of the Banée of Oliver - 2006, the first celebratory wine industry event in the Okanagan and BC celebrating and honouring the wineries and wine industry. Has since become an annual event.
- Town of Oliver Revitalization Steering Committee Member, 2002 - 2005