



CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Dr. Robin Saunders MB, BS, MD, MRCGP, DCH, DRCOG.



@RobinSaunders51

Application

I am applying for one of the two nominations from the Doctors of BC as a delegate to the **CMA Board of Directors**. I would very much appreciate your support. If elected, I would undertake to represent Doctors of British Columbia with a strong, unified and positive voice at the CMA Board.

Profile

I am a practicing Family Physician who has worked in full service rural family practice in Sooke, BC for the last twenty three years. I continue to provide intra-partum maternity and inpatient hospitalcare.

I am active as a delegate to Doctors of BC for District 1, as Chair of the South Island Division of Family Practice and as a clinical instructor for medical students and Family Practice Residents from the University of British Columbia.

Previous Experience

Canadian Medical Association

- 2010-2012 Member working group, "The Evolving Professional Relationship between Canadian Physicians and our Health Care System".
- 2009-2013 Chair CMA Committee on Ethics
- 2006-2011 Resolutions Committee CMA
- 2004-present Delegate to General Council
- 2003-2009 Representative BC and Yukon, CMA Committee on Ethics

Doctors of British Columbia (BCMA)

- 2013-2015 Member of the Governance and Nominations Committee
- 2013-present Delegate District 1, Victoria and Gulf Islands
- 2010-2013 Chair, Governance and Nominations Committee
- 2008-2012 Chair, Central Coordinating Committee
- 2005-2008 Chair, Board of Directors
- 2008-2012 Delegate Board of Directors, District 1
- 2005-2008 Chair Executive Negotiating Oversight Committee (ENOC)
- 2005 Vice-Chair Board of Directors
- 1997-present LAC representative Malahat/Juan De Fuca

Division of Family Practice

- 2013-present Chair, Board of Directors, South Island Division of Family Practice
- 2012-present Co-Chair, Collaborative Services Committee, SI Division of Family Practice
- 2009-present Board of Directors, SI Division of Family Practice
- 2007-2008 Lead physician in the formation of the Western Communities Division of Family Practice

Other Positions

- 2013-2015 VIHA, Medical Staff Performance Review Group
- 2009-2015 Data Stewardship Committee, Province of British Columbia
- 2006-2010 BCMA representative to ad hoc committee on revalidation. COPSBC.
- 1981-1982 Medical Director to BBC Television, London, UK.

What are your reasons for applying for this position?

I believe that I can be a voice for change in an organization that is looking for fresh ideas. My experience would be useful in the continuing transformation of the CMA to a more modern, representative and membership driven organization.

What do you see as the greatest challenges affecting the medical profession at this time?

With the recent cutbacks in federal health care funding to the Provinces, it will be a significant challenge to ensure universal, equitable and high quality services along the full continuum of health care that are adequately resourced and delivered in a cost-effective manner. We must continue to promote a patient-centered model of care that is timely and safe but still values individual choice. The system must be accountable through good governance, responsible use of resources, public reporting and above all new innovation. It is simply unacceptable that many Resident physicians are now facing unemployment or “under employment” upon completion of their training. Immediate steps need to be taken to rectify this urgent problem. Other challenges include the development of guidelines for “physician assisted death”, the challenges associated with the potential de-criminalization of the use of marijuana and the continuing debate on privatized health care.

What changes would you like to see in the CMA?

The CMA is going through a difficult transition. Many perceive the organization as having declining relevance. The recent significant increase in CMA dues points towards the necessity for further operational change and increased accountability. The CMA is re-defining its core purpose, function and values. Meeting the expectations of younger physicians and students should be integral to this change. Increased membership engagement through social media, member forums and regional roundtables should continue.

What experience would you bring to this position?

I have extensive experience on several high profile Boards both as a committee member and also as Chair. I understand the principles of effective governance and representation. During my time on the committee on Ethics and particularly as Chair, I have worked closely with the CMA Board of Directors to develop policies fundamental to our profession. These include:

- A Revision of the CMA Code of Ethics in 2005/2006
- Guidelines for the Interaction for Physicians with Industry 2010
- A Revision of the CMA Policy on Cardiac Death and Organ and Tissue Donation 2013
- A CMA Policy on Privacy and Confidentiality with the development of “on -line” clinical vignettes for teaching purposes (2012-2013)
- A CMA statement of Advanced Reproductive Technologies in Canada.(2013)

Most recently, I have been involved with the development of a CMA paper on **End of Life Care**. I was forefront in the discussions that occurred at General Council in 2013 presenting both the results of the CMA survey on “End of Life Care” and also helping to lead the discussion on Advanced Care Directives. I would like to continue my involvement with this important initiative both at the Provincial and National level.

My other work with the CMA was working on the Resolutions committee for General Council for 5 years.

What other attributes would you bring as a delegate to the CMA Board of Directors?

I am a team player who has demonstrated professionalism, openness, collaboration and a commitment to excellence in the past.

I am fully conversant with the CMA structure, its mission, roles and strategic direction. I have formed excellent working relationships with many of the CMA staff and physicians from other PTMA's. I have the training and ability to represent the CMA in public if required. I have demonstrated group leadership, management and organizational skills. I have shown commitment to regular committee attendance and I engage passionately in debate.