

This election for President Elect offers you very different visions for the future role of our medical association and the future of health care delivery in British Columbia. I strongly believe Doctors of BC must fairly represent the professional needs of all BC physicians. The President must be trustworthy and able to speak and work on behalf of the profession as a whole. Your choice for this position will be the face the public sees as our representative.



I am the candidate for President Elect that will best represent the needs and concerns of all physicians in this province. My life in medicine has given me broad based experiences that help me to relate to the physician community, both generalists and specialists. I have been a rural generalist for 29 years, in a practice including primary care and hospital work, ER shifts, inpatient care, obstetrics, and teaching. This year I am developing a local oncology program, following completion of a GP Oncology course last June. My goal is to help rural patients better navigate the system, minimize travel, and provide as much care as possible closer to home. Eight weeks of immersion in oncology care gave me a window into the practice lives of some of my urban GP and specialist colleagues. I saw first hand the treatment challenges of working in a large urban facility with inadequate physical infrastructure and difficulty accessing appropriate diagnostics. At heart, the problems facing all of us have many similarities.

My political involvement began with the BC rural doctors job action in 1998. Through that experience I learned that sometimes you have to stand up and confront government to accomplish things, but you must also be willing to do the hard and tedious work to build solutions after any battle is over. I have built solutions through the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, a national organization I helped develop and lead, which has profoundly impacted rural medical education and policies across Canada. I continue involvement as Co-Chair of the Advancing Rural Family Medicine Canadian Collaborative Taskforce, working with the College of Family Physicians.

I have worked in Doctors of BC on a variety of committees. I am currently Chair of the General Assembly and Vice Chair of the Board. I have experience in policy development and strategic negotiations, and was part of our recent contract negotiations that established facility based funding to enable many specialist colleagues to address their specific issues. I have helped accomplish positive changes through our association and I plan to be part of improving things for physicians and patients in this province in the future. My leadership experience has demonstrated that I can stand up for the things that matter, and work hard to negotiate, collaborate, and build positive change.

It is a privilege to be a physician, but our profession is experiencing major challenges. More than a decade of fiscal constraints have reduced services and worsened access for patients. Every day there are more patients, more forms, and more demands on our time. We struggle to meet increasing community and patient needs. We strive to choose wisely and do more with less. We are all integral to the successful delivery of medical care. Without all of us the system is diminished.

Our system needs to improve and change or it will not survive. I support publicly funded health care and equitable access for all Canadians. Physicians must be involved at every level in fixing what is broken and challenging our health authorities and Ministry of Health to help us provide efficient and effective quality of care for our patients.

I went into rural medicine because I wanted a challenging career that would make a difference in the world. As your President Elect I will work to make the system better for all of us. I will not back down from confrontation if necessary, but I believe we are better and stronger working together within our profession to leverage effective change. I will be ethical and do my best to represent all BC physicians in a fair and equitable manner.

Vote Trina for President Elect Doctors of BC.

Trina Larsen Soles

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