

## **WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR THE CMA PRESIDENT**

### **Understanding the CMA Presidency**

#### **The President's term**

- The president is elected for a three year term
  - one year as president-elect (currently Anne Doig)
  - one year as president (currently Robert Ouellet)
  - one year as past president (currently Brian Day)
- The president-elect sits on the board, acts as a stand-in for the president when necessary, and learns about the duties of the president
- The president elected in 2009 serves from August 2010 to August 2011 as president, and then another year as past-president

#### Provincial representation

- Each year the CMA president is chosen by a different province
- The presidency rotates from province to province on a weighted basis, so, for example, PEI would elect the president less frequently than Ontario

#### **Election by the delegates**

- The CMA president candidate elected provincially must then be elected by the delegates at the
- CMA general assembly
- The next assembly takes place in Saskatoon, August 2009
- Only rarely has the provincial nominee not been elected. The last case of this happening was when Dr. Tracey, one of the current candidates, was elected in Ontario but Dr. Schumacher was subsequently chosen by the CMA delegates
- CMA council members are chosen by the provincial medical associations. Some of the delegates are elected provincially (e.g. the OMA board) whereas some are chosen by an OMA selection committee

### **What is the role of the CMA president?**

#### Spokesperson – The CMA President

- is the public face of the medical profession in Canada
- interacts not only with doctors but also with other professional groups, the media, government and the public
- is quoted widely by major newspapers and television stations, and his or her personal views are often taken by the public and many media representatives to be the views of the medical profession
- travels extensively, both inside Canada and internationally, and speaks as a representative of Canadian doctors at conferences, round-tables, and meetings

#### Committee member

- According to its mission statement, the CMA aims “to serve and unite the physicians of Canada and be the national advocate, in partnership with the people of Canada, for the highest standards of health and health care.” The president plays a pivotal role in interpreting this statement, both in his or her role as a member of the CMA board of directors, and as a voting member on most major CMA committees

#### Role-model

- The president should exemplify the best aspects of our profession

#### Policy-advisor

- The CMA is consulted by the federal government on many important health policy initiatives

#### **Why you should vote**

This is your chance to vote for the candidate who can best represent your vision of medicine, and to have a direct impact on the future of the Canadian medical profession.

Voter turnout is often quite low

- In 2004, 21,776 OMA members were eligible to vote
- Just 5,785, or 22%, cast ballots
- So your vote can make a big difference in electing the best candidate for all practicing physicians, residents, medical students and our patients

The CMA plays a pivotal role in shaping our current and future practice environment, the public perception of our profession, and the health of Canadians. It is vital that the person who represents our national association reflect your views and exemplify the best aspects of Canadian medicine. By helping to elect a strong candidate to this role you can make a real difference.

**It only takes a minute – so make sure you vote!**