

Canadian Medical Association

Update to Ontario Medical Association AGM – May 1, 2025

We know that we need a strong health system now more than ever. A recent Health Canada study shows we're short 23,000 family physicians across the country. That's just one example of the gaps we're facing – gaps we know are even greater in rural and remote communities.

Advocacy – post federal election

With the federal election now behind us, the CMA is preparing a "First 100 Days of Government" engagement strategy, which will be grounded in our strategic priorities and outline key recommendations for the incoming government.

We have also engaged with CMA members and potential members through our activities (including with the OMA), and have identified those who want to get more involved in our advocacy work. This grassroots involvement will be essential when building relationships and advocating for change with the next government.

Indigenous health

Work continues in putting the CMA's apology to Indigenous Peoples into action through our [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) – its goals are to advance reconciliation, promote Indigenous health and help us follow through on our pledge to act against anti-Indigenous racism. This includes revising the CMA's Code of Ethics and Professionalism to address Indigenous racism in health care and other forms of racism.

Administrative burden

We recognize that reshaping physicians' administrative tasks and processes will maximize practice efficiency, protect physician wellness and benefit patient care. This includes funding projects through the [Health Care Unburdened Grant](#) program and advocating to reduce admin burden to realize a health system that provides remarkable patient care and empowers physicians to rediscover the joy in practising medicine.

Workforce planning

Through collaboration with other organizations, we're focussing on supporting a sustainable health workforce and improving access to care through integrated HHR planning and advancing physical, psychological and cultural safety – including through our recent National Physician Health Survey.

Strategy refresh

To reflect the evolving external environment, the CMA is undergoing an engagement process that will invite physicians, patients, the public, partners and staff to share their perspectives on Horizon 2 of our [Impact 2040 strategy](#). This input will support a prioritization and decision-making process at our June board meeting. We look forward to engaging with the OMA and other provincial/territorial medical associations on this activity in the near future.

False health information

We're supporting the fight against the rise of [false health-related information](#) that we know is affecting peoples' health. [The 2025 CMA Health & Media Annual Tracking Survey](#), conducted by Abacus Data, revealed that 37% of Canadians say they're left with no choice but to seek health information online

because they don't have access to a doctor. And 23% report they have had a negative health reaction from following online health advice. An increasing number of Canadians (43%) also say they are experiencing mental distress or increased anxiety due to misinformation.

Emerging issues

Given the events taking place in the U.S., we are also asking the federal government to mitigate the impact of the trade war on health through a number of proposed measures:

- Pharmaceutical products and medical devices should continue to be excluded from any [countermeasures on tariffs](#).
- Improved safeguards for Canadian health data should be put in place.
- [Labour mobility](#) should be improved so physicians can work across the country.
- Processes should be simplified for qualified physicians to immigrate and work in Canada, including by [fast-tracking immigration](#) steps for U.S. physicians.

The CMA also continues to monitor and explore AI developments and their impact on physicians, the practice of medicine and the delivery of care.

For more information, please visit cma.ca/our-focus or [Get involved | CMA](#).