

Proceedings

165th Annual General Meeting
Saturday, June 8, 2019



MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain the integrity and honour of the medical profession, to represent all members equitably, and to promote high quality health care and disease prevention in Nova Scotia.



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PROCEEDINGS

1. Call to Order

1.1 Opening of the Annual Meeting

Dr. Bernard called the meeting to order and declared the meeting in session.

1.2 Introduction of Procession

The 165th Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting (AGM) began with a parade through Chambers to the head table by Dr. André Bernard, Chair of the Board; Dr. Tim Holland, President; Dr. Gary Ernest, President-elect; Dr. Gigi Osler, Canadian Medical Association President; and Nancy MacCready-Williams, CEO, Doctors Nova Scotia. This year the procession was led by piper Dr. John Hamilton.

The chair took a moment to introduce and welcome the students & residents from the Sponsorship program attending the conference as special guests. The program was introduced two years ago to enable medical students and residents to attend and participate in the conference, as well as network with their colleagues and Board members.

1.3 Review Conduct of Meetings

Dr. Bernard reviewed the conduct and rules of order for the meeting. Members who could not be in attendance were able to participate and vote via webinar. It was noted that three persons were online via the webinar.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

The following resolution was moved by Dr. James Clarke and seconded by Dr. Gerard MacDonald:

Resolution – Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approves the agenda for the June 8, 2019, meeting. CARRIED

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the resolution carried.

2. Proceedings of 2018 Annual General Meeting

A copy of the proceedings from the 2018 AGM were distributed to delegates in advance of the meeting. There were no questions or comments regarding the record of those proceedings.

3. Deceased Members

Dr. Bernard read the names of those members who had passed away since the last AGM: Drs. Dewenten Fisher, Donald Scott, Shu Yoon, Paul Joseph, Lalia Johnston, Gerald Klassen, Shailini Rani Sarwal, Beverley Trask, David White, Marjorie Smith, Alexander Allen, Charles Brown, Graham Matthew Stewart, Winston Parkhill, Shariful Huq, Mehmet Erdogan, Alexander Richman, Richard McLaren, Stephen Couban, Anthony Atkinson, Paul Landrigan, J. Allan Myrden, Richard Cain, James Kenneth LeBaron Little and Murdock Smith.

A member rose to add the name of Dr. William Snow, an ophthalmologist in Sydney NS, who passed away a few days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the association's deceased members.

4. Approval of Annual Report

A copy of the 2018–19 Annual Report was included with the meeting package that was distributed to delegates in advance of the meeting.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Michael Fleming and seconded by Dr. Heather Johnson:

Resolution – Annual Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting accept the narrative portions of the 2018–19 Annual Report. CARRIED

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The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the motion carried.

5. Canadian Medical Association Address

Dr. Laurent Marcoux, CMA President, and Dr. Jeff Blackmer, CMA Vice President of Medical Professionalism, addressed the assembly. Dr. Blackmer took the opportunity to speak to members about CMA's recent announcement on the sale of MD Financial Management to Scotiabank and the rigorous process that was involved in that decision to ensure everything was done above board.

The project operated under two primary principles:

- In 2019, the CMA began holding regional member forums to connect with members in four designated regions. Physician health and wellness was raised as a critical issue for members. Members are advocating for changes at the system level to foster healthy workplace environments.
- The CMA has created a Physician Health and Wellness department under the leadership of Dr. Caroline Gérin-Lajoie. Their first project is building a physician wellness hub in virtual space, with resources available 24/7. This will be shared across Canada and internationally. Additionally, a Canadian Conference on Physician Health and Wellness will be held in St. John's this Fall. The PTMAs are also tackling this issue.
- Other issues that the CMA is working on are the supply and demand/recruitment and retention of physicians, potential for national licensure and virtual care.
- The CMA and PTMAs recently co-signed a joint statement taking action on virtual care, and the CMA has appointed a Virtual Care Task Force, in conjunction with the

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, to help develop national strategies. The CMA will also be hosting a session on virtual care at their Health Summit in August.

- A Task Force is looking into national licensing to address locum needs and has a hard deadline for recommendations by the end of this year. Those recommendations will be shared with the PTMA's in early 2020.
- An online engagement platform was launched by the CMA so members can connect with the association and each other. Conversations around virtual care and the upcoming federal election have been occurring.
- Getting health on the national agenda is a focus of the CMA for this year's federal election.

Dr. Osler concluded her address by thanking the AGM for the opportunity to speak and offered to take any questions during the Members' Forum.

6. Address from Department of Health and Wellness

Dr. Tom Marrie, newly appointed Interim Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness, was welcomed to the meeting.

He provided some background, noting that he is a former Dalhousie University Dean of Medicine and previously worked in infectious diseases and research.

When Dr. Marrie was approached by the Premier to take on this role, he accepted because he has concerns about the health care system. He has been given a mandate with terms of reference to build stronger relationships with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, the IWK, Doctors Nova Scotia, Community Health Boards and the Department of Health and Wellness executive. He stressed the

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need to work together to build stronger connections with and between all those partners.

Government needs to see if course corrections are required while maintaining what is working well. Through discussions with stakeholders, Dr. Marrie will be identifying gaps in the system and will work with others to mitigate the gaps as appropriate. He is open to hearing new ideas and will be reaching out to Doctors Nova Scotia.

The chair thanked Dr. Marrie for his address.

7. Audit Committee Report

7.1 Review Audited Financial Statements for 2017/18

Dr. Mike Wadden, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2018. The detailed audited statements were included in the distributed registration package and were also available on-line prior to the meeting. He explained that the DNS fiscal year runs from September to August which doesn't align well with the Annual General Meeting dates; however, more up-to-date information will be presented.

Dr. Wadden outlined the Committee's objectives and reported that the association is currently on track with projections for the current fiscal year (September 2018–August 2019). He also noted that the association's 2017-18 audit, performed by KPMG, found no errors or omissions resulting in an unqualified opinion that the financial statements fairly represent the financial position of Doctors Nova Scotia in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. These statements were presented to the Board of Directors in December of 2018 and were approved as presented.

Dr. Wadden explained that the association has two main funding sources; Operations and the Recruitment and Retention fund (also known as the Member Benefits fund). Operations are fund-

ed by annual dues from members, staff recoveries from DHW and payments from third parties for magazine advertising and sponsorships. Payments from DHW are provided via the Master Agreement to cover the cost of member benefits including Health and Dental, Professional Support, Parental Leave and other specific, targeted projects as identified by DHW and DNS.

7.2 Approval of Auditors for 2019-2023

The By-laws state that the AGM is responsible for appointing the external auditors. In 2013 the AGM appointed KPMG as the association's auditors for 2014–2018, and that term has just ended. The Audit Committee is recommending that KPMG be appointed for the upcoming five years. The selection process and rationale for the recommendation were outlined in the briefing note distributed prior to the Annual General Meeting.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Mike Wadden, and seconded by Dr. Gerard MacDonald:

Resolution – Appointment of Auditors

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approve the appointment of KPMG as the external auditors for the years ending Aug. 31, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2023. By-laws as presented at the June 9, 2018 meeting. CARRIED

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the motion carried.

The Chair thanked Dr. Wadden for his presentation and for his continued work on the audit Committee.

8. By-Laws Revisions

Dr. Kathy Gallagher, member of the Governance Committee, presented the Committee's proposed revisions to the by-laws. The revisions were suggested by the Governance Committee and have been reviewed by DNS legal counsel and the Board of Directors. Copies of the proposed revisions were distributed to delegates in advance

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of the meeting, and a notice of the amendments was posted to the Doctors Nova Scotia website, as required by Section 17.2 of the By-laws.

The revisions primarily affect Section 6.4 (Membership) and 15 (Removal from the Board or Committees). The revision in Section 6.4 (Membership) involves changing the membership category from “Emergency Members” to “Temporary Members” in keeping with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia’s membership licence for those emergency situations such as a crisis or pandemic. The revision in Section 15 (Removal from the Board or Committees) is to include the new Board and Committee Attendance Policy that was recommended by the Governance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Kathy Gallagher and seconded by Dr. Kelly Dakin-Hache:

Resolution – By-Laws

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approves the revised By-laws as presented at the June 9, 2018 meeting. CARRIED.

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the resolution carried.

9. Suspending Member Dues for Short-term Locum Placements

Dr. Amanda MacDonald presented the rationale for the proposed change. Finding out-of-province locum coverage is one of the many issues facing members. Locums report that they are challenged by the fees and administrative burden. Therefore, the Board of Directors is asking the AGM to approve the waiving of membership dues for any physician who holds a temporary license with the College to provide locum coverage in Nova Scotia for six weeks or less. The Board is also asking to set dues for locums who provide coverage for

more than six weeks at the pro-rated monthly rate for full members as is keeping with current practice.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Amanda MacDonald and seconded by Dr. Cindy Marshall:

Resolution – Suspending Member Dues for Short-term Locum Placements

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approves waiving dues for physicians holding a temporary license with the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Nova Scotia to provide locum coverage in Nova Scotia for a period of six weeks or less; AND THAT locums holding a temporary license for more than six weeks will pay a pro-rated monthly rate based on full member dues. CARRIED

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the resolution carried.

10. Nominating Committee Report

10.1 President-elect

Dr. Tim Holland, President, and Chair of the Nominating Committee explained that the Committee is responsible for reviewing the nominations for President-elect and recommending a candidate for the Board’s endorsement and for approval at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

This year the Nominating Committee recommended Dr. Robyn MacQuarrie. Dr. Holland noted that Dr. MacQuarrie is an Obstetrician Gynecologist and a women’s health advocate. She is a strong candidate who welcomes this opportunity to work with Doctors Nova Scotia and physicians in Nova Scotia for positive change. She understands the healthcare landscape and how each of the unique players (Department of Health & Wellness, NSHA, IWK, politicians and DNS) can contribute to positive change in health services in this province.

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She has served as Section Chair for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Section since 2015 and has been the Section Forum Chair and a member of the DNS Board of Directors since 2016. Dr. MacQuarrie is a physician leader in her own right who has strengthened her skills with formal leadership development over the past several years.

Dr. MacQuarrie is currently the NSHA Department Head for Maternal and Child Health in the Northern Zone. Although she and the Nominating Committee are confident that any potential conflict of interest could be managed if she continued in that position, Dr. MacQuarrie has decided to take a leave of absence from her NSHA role for the year she serves as President.

The Board of Directors passed a motion at its April 5, 2019 meeting to endorse the committee's nomination of Dr. MacQuarrie. Dr. MacQuarrie was unable to be at the Annual General Meeting in person but joined the webinar to answer any questions raised.

As there were no questions raised, the following resolution was moved by Dr. Tim Holland and seconded by Dr. Alf Bent:

Resolution – President-elect

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approve Dr. Robyn MacQuarrie as President-elect for 2019-2020.
CARRIED

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the resolution carried.

10.2 2019-20 Board of Directors

Dr. Holland reported that elections were held in March/April to fill three vacant seats on the Board of Directors. As a result of the election, the Board is pleased to welcome two new members and one returning member, all for three-year terms:

- *Dr. Gehad Gobran, a family physician in Halifax (elected by acclamation);*
- *Dr. Tammy Keough-Ryan, a nephrologist in*

Halifax; and

- *Dr. Alf Bent, obstetrician and gynecologist in Truro (returning to the Board for second term).*

The Board also welcomes three new regional representatives, approved by the Board for a one-year term:

- *Dr. Colette Sauveur, a family physician in Springhill;*
- *Dr. Gerard MacDonald, an otolaryngologist in Amherst (returning for a second one-year term); and*
- *Dr. Stephanie Langley, a family physician in Sydney.*

Also new to the Board this year:

- *Dr. Mary Gorman, a family physician in Antigonish, as Section Forum Chair;*
- *Dr. Leo Fares, Maritime Doctors representative; and*
- *Mr. Neetin Prabhu, student representative.*

A complete list of the 2019/20 Board of Directors can be found on the website.

Additionally, on behalf of the association a huge thank you is extended to those Board members who will be leaving the Board this year:

*Dr. Manoj Vohra, Past President
Dr. Kathy Gallagher
Dr. Scott Mawdsley
Dr. Mandat Maharaj
Dr. Leisha Hawker
Dr. Caitlin Lees (resident)
Mr. Kyle Kilby (student)*

Donations will be made in each person's name to Hospice Cape Breton, which is currently fund raising for a family-friendly 10-bed hospice residence.

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11. Approval of New Section

The Board of Directors reviewed an application for a new Section, the Section of Physician Leaders/Administrators, and is satisfied that the requirements set out in the Rules & Regulations have been met. The Board endorsed the application at the April 5, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. Annual General Meeting approval is required for this Section to be recognized.

Dr. Crawford asked if this new Section could potentially include members who are employees of the Nova Scotia Health Authority. The Chair responded that the Sections are self-governing and can appoint as they see fit. They have an obligation and opportunity to manage conflict-of-interests. All members must adhere to the rules and regulations of their Sections.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Rod Wilson and seconded by Dr. Ashley Miller:

Resolution – Approval of New Section

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approves the creation of the Section of Physician Leaders/Administrators.
CARRIED*

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the resolution carried.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Announcements

The Chair advised that a meeting evaluation form is available on-line to be completed. A special thank you was given to Telus Health for sponsoring the morning break.

14. Adjournment

The 165th annual meeting of Doctors Nova Scotia was adjourned at 10:19 am.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Mike Wadden and seconded by Dr. Mike Fleming:

Resolution – Adjournment

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 165th Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED*

The Chair put the resolution to a vote, and declared the resolution carried.

Approved by the Board of Directors: Sept. 20, 2019