

## **Agenda Item# 9.1**

### **2025 AGM Motion**

#### **Section of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons**

The Annual Meeting is being asked to approve a new **Section of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons Section**

Obesity is a chronic disease with a complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and behavioral factors, contributing to significant comorbidities such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and sleep apnea. The incidence of obesity has been steadily rising in Nova Scotia and nationwide, necessitating a comprehensive and unified approach to care.

Given the growing need for specialized management of obesity, the formation of the Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons Section will provide an essential platform within Doctors Nova Scotia for collaboration, education, and advocacy, addressing the needs of both physicians and patients alike.

#### **Objectives and Benefits:**

**1. Enhanced Multidisciplinary Collaboration:**

The Section would foster collaboration among bariatric surgeons, endocrinologists, dietitians, psychologists, primary care physicians, and other allied health professionals. This interprofessional approach is crucial for addressing the multifaceted medical, psychological, and social needs of patients with obesity, ultimately improving the continuum of care. By creating a dedicated space for dialogue and innovation, we can better align our efforts in patient management and ensure consistent, evidence-based approaches across the province.

**2. Educational Development and Continuous Learning:**

The Section would facilitate ongoing education and professional development through workshops, seminars, and conferences focused on obesity and bariatric care. This includes updating members on the latest advancements in surgical techniques, such as minimally invasive and robotic surgery, nutritional management, psychological support, and emerging pharmacological therapies. Additionally, the Section would support initiatives to engage and train future healthcare professionals in obesity care, thus ensuring sustainability in the province's response to this public health challenge.

**3. Advocacy and Policy Influence:**

By establishing a dedicated Section, we would be better positioned to advocate for the needs of patients living with obesity, raise awareness, and influence healthcare policy in Nova Scotia.

**4. Research and Data Collection:**

The Section would promote and support research initiatives aimed at understanding the epidemiology of obesity in Nova Scotia, as well as outcomes related to various treatment modalities. This will provide valuable data to drive evidence-based policy decisions and enhance the quality of care offered within the province. In collaboration with academic institutions, we could also explore partnerships to conduct clinical trials, develop new treatment protocols, and contribute to global advancements in bariatric science.

## Conclusion:

The creation of the Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons Section within Doctors Nova Scotia will serve as a critical step forward in improving obesity care across the province. It will foster interdisciplinary collaboration, provide educational opportunities, advocate for better healthcare policies, and ultimately enhance patient outcomes. The Section will empower physicians and allied health professionals to work together in combating obesity, while also addressing the unique challenges faced by this patient population.

We are confident that this initiative aligns with the broader goals of Doctors Nova Scotia to provide high-quality, patient-centered care and to address the pressing healthcare needs of our communities. We look forward to your favorable consideration and are available for further discussion to answer any questions regarding this proposal.

Section 2 of the Rules & Regulations (below) outlines the requirements for forming a new Section.

## 2. SECTIONS

### 2.1 Creation

- (a) Any group of ten or more members of the Society who are primarily interested in any aspect of the science and/or practice of medicine may be recognized as a Section of the Society with the approval of a formal application at the time of the Annual General Meeting provided that such an application is endorsed by the Board of Directors at a meeting not less than 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) This application will include:
  - (i) the name of the proposed Section;
  - (ii) the names and signatures of the ten (10) or more Society members sponsoring the proposed Section;
  - (iii) the names of the interim chair and secretary of the proposed Section; and
  - (iv) the reason why the formation of a new Section will benefit both the members of the proposed Section and the Society as a whole.

The Board of Directors has reviewed the application and is satisfied that the requirements set out in the Rules & Regulations have been met. To be recognized as a Section of Doctors Nova Scotia, approval at the Annual General Meeting is required.

The following motion will be presented at the AGM:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approves the creation of the Section of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons.*