

BCMA ELECTION FOR DELEGATE – DISTRICT 3 (VANCOUVER) – 2009

Dr. Charles Webb

April 16, 2009

I was born and trained in South Africa. Since moving to Canada, I have served rural areas as well as local hospitals.

When I departed South Africa, the country and medical community were in crisis. Nelson Mandela was still in jail. The Medical Association of South Africa [MASA] still vacillated in disciplining doctors who had improperly treated political activist Steven Biko, beaten to death while in police detention. A case of thallium poisoning in a newly released prisoner, who later disappeared without trace, had prompted my assisting in setting up questions in parliament, while a new medical association was being set up in protest at MASA's ethical failures.

Charles Webb



The BCMA has not lost its moral bearings in this same grand style. However recent events have once again drawn me back into the political arena. The abrupt withdrawal of the BCMA Board from our 2007 AGM, followed by Dr. Appleton's general email announcing the Board initiation of a Code of Conduct review against our Secretary Treasurer, evoked in me a duty to seek election to District 3. The review of Secretary Treasurer Wang's conduct was initiated without a formal complaint, legitimate process or, it would seem, due ethical consideration. Failing resolution within the BCMA, the case was dismissed at the BC Supreme Court, with the Board receiving an appropriately scathing reprimand from Justice Ballance who enjoined them to avoid causing further damage. Instead of capitulating honourably, our Board has appealed Justice Ballance's ruling. The BCMA factum does not contest the court's finding that they breached their own Code of Conduct in dealing with one of their own officers and yet Dr. Wang continues to bear costs in what has now become a strictly legal yet very personal battle.

This prompted my direct participation in the formation of the BCDDF [B.C Doctors for a Democratic Future]. The BCDDF is a loosely aligned, grassroots movement devoted to putting the association back to doing what it should – serving the needs and values of our members. Through appeals made under my own name and those of others, the BCDDF has gathered the signatures of nearly 1000 concerned members. These efforts have been frustrated rather than assisted by our President and Board. In our call for a special general meeting of the BCMA, we seek to resolve matters within our profession, rather than through the courts with the attendant risks of further harm to our collective image and finances.

To overcome our current problems and apathy we need new leadership. Leaders who are committed to innovative approaches and competent direction as we bring the organization back to the electorate and back to ethical self-regulation rather than public legal action.

Instead of unnecessary personal squabbles played out through the association and the courts, let's focus on the BCMA's true mandate. Let us improve the relationship between GPs and Specialists across the province and pursue a system that increasingly rewards physicians to deliver better outcomes. To achieve this, I ask your help in gaining the position of Delegate in District 3. Cast your vote for Charles Webb.

VOTE FOR CHANGE – VOTE CHARLES WEBB FOR DISTRICT DELEGATE

DR CHARLES WEBB

1. University of Cape Town 1982
2. Commenced practice in District 3 in 1992
3. Specialty – GP Anaesthesia/Diving Medicine/Aviation Medicine
4. Chairman, Leo Marquard Hall / University of Cape Town 1981
5. Head Students Committee/ University of Cape Town 1981
6. Residence Committee -University Council/ University of Cape Town 1981
7. Elected Life Fellow Leo Marquard Hall University of Cape Town 1982
8. Republic of South Africa [RSA] Progressive Federal Party Youth Committee Western Cape [Official Parliamentary Opposition] 1982
9. Vice Chairman St Stithians Old Boys Association Western Cape RSA 1983
10. Medical Sub Warden Leo Marquard Hall University of Cape Town 1983
11. Medical Officer/National Service/ South African Defence Force 1984/1985
12. Navy Medical Centre Simonstown RSA – Diplomate Diving and Submarine Medicine, 1984
13. Institute of Aviation Medicine Pretoria RSA - Diplomate Aviation and Space Medicine, 1984
14. Awarded Pro Patria Medal – Service in the Operational Area Northern Namibia/South West Africa 1985
15. College of Medicine of South Africa - Diplomate Anaesthetics DA (SA) 1985
16. Teaching Assistant Department of Anatomy UCT 1986
17. College of Medicine of South Africa-FCS [SA] Surgery Primary Examination 1986
18. Registrar Department of Orthopaedic Surgery / Groote Schuur Hospital/ Red Cross Children's Hospital UCT 1987/ 1988
19. Medical Officer Leaf Rapids Manitoba 1988/1989
20. Head Department of Anaesthesia Creston Valley Hospital B.C. 1990-1992
21. Secretary Medical Advisory Committee Creston Valley Hospital B.C. 1991/ 1992
22. Clinical Instructor UBC Dept of Family Practice Rural Residency Training Program 1990 to 1992
23. Medical Quality Assurance Committee [Family Practice] St Vincent's Hospital Vancouver 1992 to 2002
24. Full Admitting Privileges St Vincent's Hospital & later Mt. Saint Josephs Hospital Department of Family Practice Vancouver 1992 to 2003
25. Medical Council of Canada- Clinical Examiner LMCC 2005 to 2009
26. Associate Member Seaforths Highlanders of Canada Officers Mess 2006 to 2009
27. COMMUNITY INTERESTS> Windsurfing /Kite Boarding/Flying [first solo flight 1991]/Scuba Diving/Skiing/Fishing/ Snowboarding/Sailing [20'NACRA catamaran at Jericho Sailing Club]] daughters aged 2 and 4 now taking precedence in my recreational activities.