

CHARLES WEBB

NEW LEADERS IN CHALLENGING TIMES!

doctors
of bc
Better Together.
BCMA 2014

Dear Colleague,

This presidential election is about integrity. Of course we need a leader capable of inspiring members, board delegates and our executive. Beyond this, we need a president with the courage to put personal interests aside and consistently consider, and do, what's best for all of us. Our members need someone who will work selflessly to mobilize, guide, and unite our profession during the lean and difficult times ahead. Over the last 5 years it has been my privilege to organize town hall meetings, field surveys, co-sponsor referenda, and work with my fellow members to overcome our existing leadership's efforts to maintain a self-interested status quo. With this track record, I ask for your continued support in reforming our organization, and your trust in my commitment, integrity, and energy as I run for 2015 President.

In 2012, I was elected Chair of General Assembly proposing an engaged, united, relevant, revitalized, reorganized and successful BCMA. My running-mate in that election and I remain true to that vision, both on and off the board. Dr. James Busser and I have, despite overwhelming board opposition, advanced the BCMA towards modernity. We paved the way for electronic elections and referenda and forced the term limits question. While the Board unanimously opposed the latter reform at the time, the political winds have shifted and they are now enthusiastic about exactly the same measures wrapped in slightly different language. The desire to be at the forefront of further change is a central factor in my bid for the presidency.



Real Engagement

The incumbent board has just announced a strategic plan for the renamed Doctors of British Columbia. Engagement, along with a motto that now parallels BC Doctors for a Democratic Future, are said to be at the heart of the board's plan. "Better Together" has a nice ring, but members will only truly engage once they trust that their views matter. The board is yet to fully unyoke itself from favouring insider opportunities. Last summer, it saw an award-winning and pro-reform candidate for the CMA shot down before she even had a chance to speak. Term limits will be a healthy start. Combine, with this, your support of newer directors and we can further our transition to a more-modern, engaged, and accountable organization.

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Real Work

We are fortunate to have an outstanding professionally-managed administration led by an energetic CEO with a fresh perspective. Under his and our Chief Negotiator's guidance we are targeting increased doctor influence and innovation across all levels of health care. I experienced this new start as the founding Vice Chair of the Vancouver Division of Family Practice. And so, during my 12 month hiatus from our board, I have not been idle. I devoted time and energy to VCH homecare nursing and hospital discharge redesign. I continue to leverage the GPSC leadership and management training course from Simon Fraser University to work with colleagues equally committed to ensuring the new Family Practice Division's success. Presently, I sit on the St Paul's Shared Care Committee, from which the Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise initiative continues to roll out province wide. I previously completed serving as a physician champion at the Practice Support Program pioneering the Youth Mental Health module, and have recently begun work on the amalgamation of PITO within PSP. Finally, on March 31 I led the first session of the VDoFP IT Committee "EMR New User group". This PITO-sponsored event provided full remuneration for all 80 participants, a quantum leap forward in valuing doctors and MOA's for their input into the design of future EMR supports.

Real Future

While our new contract with the Province may offer opportunities, it will likely contain challenges in the form of mandated, but, as with EMR, underfunded collaborations with government agencies. This in an era when a BC doctor's average earnings were reported in Sept 2013 as \$100 000 less than in Ontario and \$53 000 less than the national average. With Nurse Practitioners being positioned as our future replacements, and our profession strangely silent in the present debate on patients self-funding care, there are significant challenges ahead.



Leadership in challenging times

Now is the time for strong and wise leadership. It is time for a President with a vision, and the integrity to make the challenges of our era benefit all BC doctors, not just a few of the "old guard". We have five years to integrate and train younger colleagues for the next contract negotiation. This is a time for our profession to unite across all Canada. To accomplish this, I ask for your vote.

Yours truly,

Charles Webb