

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Working hard for our members—your voice at the table Elevating Member Issues with Policy Makers

Federal Engagement:

CAS' President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, and CEO, Vanessa Foran, met with several federal policy makers over the summer to ensure your priorities remain front and centre, focusing on key issues related to HHR and environmental sustainability. Meetings included:

- MP Eric St. Pierre (a champion on environmental issues) who expressed enthusiastic support for CAS' sustainability priorities. A follow-up meeting is already scheduled in early October with Mr. St.-Pierre and policy staff from the Health Minister's office.
- Policy staff from both Health Canada and Environment Canada
- Roy Karam, The Ministry of Health's senior policy advisor
- Environment and Climate Change Canada officials who offered strategic advice on moving sustainability initiatives forward.

These meetings reinforced CAS' reputation as a trusted, solutions-oriented voice for anesthesiology.



CAS' President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, and CEO, Vanessa Foran, meeting with newly elected Liberal MP Eric St-Pierre in August to discuss moving CAS' sustainability asks forward.

Provincial Engagement:

Saskatchewan:

In Saskatchewan, the Executive Director of Health Human Resources requested CAS' expertise on education pathways for Anesthesia Assistants, as the province looks to increase their numbers. It was a very positive discussion and nice to see that in the past few years, our proactive government relations approach has established CAS as a trusted source of information on anesthesia practice issues.

Introducing the CAS Anesthesia Taskforce

This year, CAS launched the Anesthesia Taskforce Committee, a working group established by CAS President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, which has been tasked to assist the Board of Directors in providing leadership and strategic guidance in the practice of anesthesiology in Canada.

The Taskforce is addressing the most urgent challenges facing our specialty:

- HHR assessment and long-term planning
- Surgical backlogs across provinces
- Anesthesia delivery models (including task delegation and coverage ratios)
- Rural and regional service shortages
- Changes in anesthesia practice decreasing supply (such as changes in practice profile)
- Expanding scope of practice beyond the operating room
- Information sharing between the different anesthesia stakeholders
- Remuneration models in anesthesia

Goals of the Taskforce include:

- Preventing future HHR crises
- Recommending safe anesthesia patient-care standards including potential for practice guideline revisions
- Supporting sustainable rural anesthesia services
- Developing strategies that could improve anesthesia practice
- Defining and protecting the role and scope of practice of anesthesiologists in Canada
- Enhancing communication and collaboration across all stakeholders

The first results of the Taskforce discussions plan to be shared with members at the next CAS Annual Meeting in Ottawa, in June 2026. The Taskforce's membership reflects a broad range of perspectives from across the country including FRCPCs, a Family Physician Anesthetist, and an Anesthesia Assistant. The full list of [CAS Taskforce members can be found here](#).

Global Advocacy: Endorsement of WFSA Position Statement

In July, the CAS Board approved the endorsement of the [WFSA Declaration of Patients' Rights to Labour Analgesia](#), which states:

There are 140 million births per year globally, mostly in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) where the vast majority of pregnant patients do not have access to labour analgesia. WHO emphasizes the necessity of high-quality, respectful maternity care and champions women's right to a safe and positive experience during pregnancy and childbirth, regardless of the circumstances.

During childbirth it should be unacceptable for laboring patients to experience untreated severe pain that is amenable to safe interventions. Untreated pain can have serious consequences for both maternal and fetal wellbeing.

Availability and accessibility of labour analgesia is disproportionately lacking in LMICs. This inequity underscores an urgent need to democratize pain management solutions, ensuring that every pregnant patient, irrespective of their geographical or economic position, has the right to opt for pain relief during labour, if they so desire.

The WFSA acknowledges the essential role of anesthesiologists in providing labour analgesia. This has also been emphasized in the context of the acute pain call for action, which encourages national health planning for effective acute pain management.

Anaesthesiologists' expertise empowers pregnant patients by offering them choices in managing labor pain and also enhances the safety and security of obstetric patients across the globe.

The WFSA emphasizes the right of every pregnant patient to receive analgesia for labour pain upon request.

In supporting this position statement, CAS is committed to working in collaboration with national and international health authorities, professional societies, and civil society to advance equitable access to effective pain relief during childbirth.

Raising Public Awareness: Public section of website launched

In August, CAS—working with the Public Affairs Committee—launched a [new public-facing section](#) of our website dedicated to anesthesia education for patients and families.

This initiative will serve as the foundation of CAS' upcoming public awareness campaigns, helping Canadians better understand who anesthesiologists are, what we do, and why our work matters. **Stay tuned for the first campaign launch this fall!**