

ADVOCACY UPDATE

CAS finished our final round of initial provincial meetings that began last fall, and highlighted the position statement: **Strategies to Address the Surgical Backlog and Health Human Resource Issues in Anesthesia**, published in October 2023. CAS President, Dr Lucie Filteau and CAS CEO, Vanessa Foran, along with CAS Board provincial representatives met with provincial policy makers including:

Manitoba:

- Scott Sinclair, Deputy Minister of Health
- Lanette Siragusa, Shared Health CEO

Saskatchewan:

- Minister Everett Hindley, Minister of Health
- Clint Fox, Chief of Staff to Minister Hindley
- MLA Alanna Ross, Legislative Secretary for Health

To solidify plans for 2024, The Public Affairs Advisory Committee met in early February to discuss next steps in CAS' government relations initiatives, which will include the development of an advocacy framework with clear key asks, continued follow-up discussions with policy makers, and on-going issues monitoring and management working in collaboration with provincial partners.



In addition to our advocacy work in Canada, the CAS Board unanimously endorsed a World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA) initiative on Patient Blood Management Principles based on the **Santa Cruz Declaration: A Global PBM Consensus**. The full Declaration read as follows:

THE SIGNATORIES OF THIS STATEMENT...

Recognize the serious public health problem represented by iron deficiency, anemia, bleeding, and coagulation disorders imposing a great burden on national public health systems and the profound impact these conditions represent on well-being and adverse outcomes of hospitalized patients.

*For this reason, we consider the urgent need to lead the implementation of the **Patient Blood Management** principles in the perioperative period, through its three fundamental pillars:*

- *Detection and management of anemia and iron deficiency;*
- *Minimization of blood loss and optimization of coagulation; and*
- *Improvement and optimization of physiological tolerance to anemia.*

We are committed to leading and coordinating efforts together with other scientific societies and our local governments to guarantee these fundamental principles, and for the standardization of a sustainable, systematic, multidisciplinary and multiprofessional policy aimed to preserve the patient's own blood as a universal frame of reference in which we will work together.

The World Health Organization (WHO) supports worldwide implementation of PBM. WHO's 2021 policy brief: 'The urgent need to implement patient blood management' can be found at the following link:

www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240035744.

Dr Lucie Filteau represented CAS' support for the PBM principles, participating at the launch of this initiative at the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) in March 2024 in Singapore.