

ADVOCACY UPDATE

CAS continues to build on the advocacy work that began last year, starting with the creation of a Public Affairs Committee. The committee is currently focused on introductory meetings with provincial policy makers to ensure awareness of CAS, build collaborative relationships with policy makers and provide insight on some of the key challenges members face every day. It is hoped that this will lead to the CAS' involvement in further discussions to effectively address human health resource and surgical backlog issues. The strategic targeting of provinces is based on knowledge of specific initiatives underway as well as where governments are in their election cycle. CAS' government relations firm, Global Public Affairs, has been extremely helpful in setting up meetings and to date, we have met with:

Nova Scotia:

Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister,
Department of Health and Wellness

Nicole Boutilier, Vice-President of Medicine,
Nova Scotia Health

Craig Beaton, Associate Deputy Minister,
Department of Health and Wellness

Ontario:

Teresa Buchanan, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Physician & Provider Services, Ontario Ministry
of Health

Nicole Williams, Director, Negotiations Branch

Julie Ingo, Associate Director, Provider Services

Alberta:

Paul Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health
Workforce Planning and Accountability

Stacey Litvinchuk, Senior Program Officer,
Provincial Surgery Utilization and Alberta
Surgical Initiative Lead

Dr Gary Dobson, Chair, Department of
Anesthesia at University of Calgary, and
Alberta Health Services

Dr Dominic Cave, Zone Clinical Department
Head, AHS

Roberta Dubois, Provincial Practice Director,
Respiratory Services, AHS

British Columbia:

Mark Armitage, Assistant Deputy Minister
for Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary
Services Division

Miranda Mason, Executive Director for Health
Workforce Planning and Implementation

In preparation for these discussions, CAS has reached out to our provincial leads and included them in the conversation to gain insight on specific provincial challenges and successful models of care, to ensure collaboration and transparency, and to help build stronger connections between provincial CAS members and local policy makers.

Meetings with government are expected to continue throughout the fall. To support future advocacy efforts, the Public Affairs Committee is developing a position statement on addressing the health human resource crisis and surgical backlog, to offer clear solutions and acceptable strategies to maintain the quality and safety of patient care. CAS Board approval on the position statement is expected shortly and will be shared widely with members once it is finalized.

CAS invited to the National Provincial/ Territorial Table on Blood and Blood Products

In January, CAS was approached to provide a representative for the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products (NAC) on an ad-hoc basis for the NAC subcommittee on Leukoreduced Whole Blood (LRWB). Dr Justyna Bartoszko, UHN Toronto General Hospital, graciously agreed to represent CAS on this committee, and they are now in the process of developing an ethical framework for the potential introduction of leukoreduced whole blood to the Canadian environment. Through this working group, CAS members and the anesthesia community are well represented and will continue to be key stakeholders on these issues going forward.