

ADVOCACY UPDATE AND 2023 WRAP-UP

CAS continues the momentum of our advocacy work; we began the fall with the position statement ***Strategies to Address the Surgical Backlog and Health Human Resource Issues in Anesthesia***, published in October. This statement will help inform our discussions with provincial and federal policy makers as we discuss how to address current issues in anesthesia care and delivery, with the goal of having an open dialogue about practical strategies and solutions.

CAS President, Dr Lucie Filteau and CAS CEO, Vanessa Foran, along with CAS Board provincial representatives continue to meet with provincial policy makers including:

PEI:

- Lisa Thibeau: Deputy Minister, Health and Wellness

New Brunswick:

- Eric Beaulieu: Deputy Minister of Health

Newfoundland & Labrador:

- John McGrath: Deputy Minister, Health and Community Services
- Jeannine Herritt: Assistant Deputy Minister, Health and Community Services

Manitoba:

- Scott Sinclair: Deputy Minister of Health

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

Initial meetings with provincial policy makers will continue throughout the first quarter of 2024.



CAS has also been meeting with Health Canada about various medication and equipment supply chain issues. In addition to informing Health Canada about specific shortages, we're able to bring our specialty's perspective on the direct impact of these shortages. This helps to inform decision making by Health Canada about the seriousness of the shortage and the need (in some cases) to seek alternative supplies internationally. When indicated, CAS releases bulletins to its membership, such as that recently sent about the **succinylcholine shortage**.

To plan for 2024, **The Public Affairs Advisory Committee** met in early November to discuss progress to date and next steps. Several ideas were discussed including promoting the ACT model as a gold standard in anesthesia delivery, with the inclusion of increased anesthesia assistant positions to support; progress on the environmental position statement, and potential models to promote for rural/remote anesthesia delivery. CAS will continue to keep members informed of our plans as we move forward in this work.